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The North Carolina Council for Women Presents Women of the Century

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Distinguished Women Awards Banquet
Commemorative Program
March 14, 2000

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Women of the Century

(A commemorative program of the Distinguished Women of North Carolina Awards Banquet.)

Governor James B. Hunt Jr.

Secretary Katie G. Dorsett
North Carolina Department of Administration

Juanita M. Bryant, Executive Director
North Carolina Council for Women

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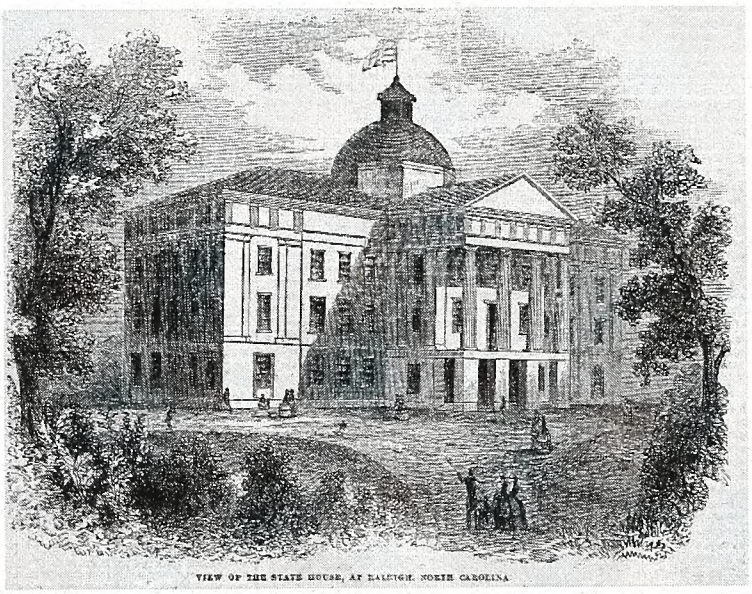
North Carolina Women in State Government



VIEW OF THE STATE HOUSE, AT RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA.

Women Currently Serving in Top Level State Government Positions

Elaine Marshall,
Secretary of State

Katie Dorsett,
Secretary,
Department of
Administration

Betty McCain,
Secretary,
Department of
Cultural Resources

Muriel Offerman,
Secretary,
Department of
Revenue

Janice Faulkner,
Former Secretary of
Revenue and
Current
Commissioner,
Division of Motor
Vehicles

Justice Sarah Parker,
State Supreme Court

Current Female Legislators
1999-2000

Row 1 (l-r): Rep. Alma S. Adams, Rep. Martha B. Alexander, Rep. Cherie K. Berry, Rep. Joanne W. Bowie, Rep. Flossie Boyd-McIntyre, Rep. Debbie A. Clary, Sen. Betsy L. Cochrane
Row 2 (l-r): Rep. Beverly M. Earle, Rep. Ruth Easterling, Rep. Theresa H. Esposito, Sen. Virginia Foxx, Rep. Charlotte A. Gardner, Sen. Linda Garrou, Sen. Kay R. Hagan
Row 3 (l-r): Rep. Julia C. Howard, Rep. Verla C. Insko, Rep. Mary L. Jarrell, Rep. Margaret M. "Maggie" Jeffus, Sen. Eleanor Kinnaird, Sen. Jeanne Hopkins Lucas, Rep. Mary E. McAllister
Row 4 (l-r): Rep. Marian N. McLawhorn, Rep. Amelia A. H. "Mia" Morris, Sen. Beverly Eaves Perdue, Rep. Jean R. Preston, Rep. Carolyn B. Russell, Rep. Wilma M. Sherrill, Rep. Trudi Walend
Row 5 (l-r): Rep. Edith D. Warren, Rep. Jennifer Weiss, Rep. Constance K. "Connie" Wilson.

- ✓ **Fourteen percent or 7 of 50 North Carolina Senators are female**
- ✓ **Twenty percent or 24 of 120 North Carolina Representatives are female**
- ✓ **Eighteen percent or 31 of 170 North Carolina Legislators are female**

Women in the North Carolina General Assembly, 1921 through 1999

A very distinguished group of women have served in the North Carolina legislature. From Lillian Exum Clement Stafford who was elected before she could even vote, to the present day legislators, it is important to remember all of the women who have served the state of North Carolina in the legislature. The table below lists all women who have served in the North Carolina legislature.

First Name	Last Name	First year of term served	Chamber	Party	County
Alma	Adams	1993, '95, '97, '99	H	D	Guilford
Julia M.	Alexander*	1925	H	D	Mecklenburg
Martha B.	Alexander	1993, '95, '97, '99	H	D	Mecklenburg
Anne E.	Bagnal	1979	S	R	Forsyth
Anne C.	Barnes	1981, '83, '85, '87, '89, '91, '93, '95	H	D	Orange
Cherie K.	Berry	1993, '95, '97, '99	H	R	Catawba
Marilyn R.	Bissell	1973, '75, '77, '79	H	R	Mecklenburg
Joanne W.	Bowie	1989, '91, '93, '95, '97, '99	H	R	Guilford
Flossie	Boyd-McIntyre	1995, '97, '99	H	D	Guilford
Louise S.	Brennan	1969, '77, '79, '81, '83	H	D	Mecklenburg
Mary F.	Brumby* (Hull)	1965	H	D	Cherokee
Dorothy	Burnley	1981, '83	H	R	Guilford
Nancy W.	Chase*	1963, '65, '67, '69, '71, '73, '75, '77	H	D	Wayne
Debbie A.	Clary	1995, '97, '99	H	R	Cleveland
Lillian Exum	Clement*	1921	H	D	Buncombe
Betsy L.	Cochrane	1981, '83, '85, '87, S: '89, '91, '93, '95, '97, '99	H, S	R	Davie
Iona T.	Hargett Collier	1963, '65	H	D	Jones
Marie W.	Colton	1979; '81, '83, '85, '87, '89, '91, '93	H	D	Buncombe
Elinor C.	Cook*	1961	H	R	Macon
Ruth E.	Cook	1975, '77, '79, '81, '83	H	D	Wake
Lillian M.	Cover*	1943, '45, '59	H	D	Cherokee
Jennie G.	Craven*	1949	H	D	Mecklenburg
Frances M.	Cummings	1993, '95	H	R	Robeson
Rachel D.	Davis*	1959, '61, '63	H	D	Lenoir
Ann Q.	Duncan	1985, '87, '89	H	R	Forsyth
Beverly M.	Earle	1995, '97, '99	H	D	Mecklenburg
Ruth M.	Easterling	1977, '79, '81, '83, '85, '87, '89, '91, '93, '95, '97, '99	H	D	Mecklenburg
Susan G.	Ervin (Helms)*	1949	H	D	Mecklenburg
Theresa H.	Esposito	1985, '87, '89, '91, '93, '95, '97, '99	H	R	Forsyth
Martha W.	Evans*	1963 S: '65, '67, '69	H, S	D	Mecklenburg
Jeanne T.	Fenner	1979, '81, '83	H	D	Wilson
Sue R.	Ferguson*	1947	S	D	Alexander
Thelma R.	Fisher*	1955	H	R	Transylvania

First Name	Last Name	First year of term served	Chamber	Party	County
Tressie P.	Fletcher*	1961	H	R	Alexander
Jo Graham	Foster	1973, '75, '77, '79, '81, '83, '85, '87, '89, '91	H	D	Mecklenburg
Virginia	Foxx	1995, '97, '99	S	R	Avery
Charlotte A.	Gardner	1985, '87, '89, '91, '93, '95, '97, '99	H	R	Rowan
Linda Dew	Garrou	1999	S	D	Forsyth
Karen E.	Gottovi	1991, '93	H	D	New Hanover
Rachel G.	Gray	1977, '79, '81, '83	S	D	Guilford
Pat Oakes	Griffin	1975, '77	H	D	Durham
Linda H.	Gunter	1993	S	D	Wake
Kay R.	Hagan	1999	S	D	Guilford
Margaret B.	Hayden	1981, '83	H	D	Alleghany
Bertha M.	Holt	1975, '77, '79, '81, '83, '85, '87, '89, '91, '93	H	D	Alamance
Julia C.	Howard	1989, '91, '93, '95, '97, '99	H	R	Davie
Doris R.	Huffman	1985, '87, '89, '91	H	R	Catawba
Judy F.	Hunt	1987, '89, '91, '93	H	D	Watauga
Patricia S.	Hunt (Love)	1969, '73, '75, '77, '79, '81	H	D	Orange
Wanda H.	Hunt	1983, '85, '87, '89	S	D	Moore
Wilda H.	Hurst (Knight)	1975, '77	H	D	Onslow
Effie G.	Hutchins*	1935, '37	H	D	Yancey
Verla C.	Insko	1997, '99	H	D	Orange
Mary L.	Jarrell	1983, '87, '89, '91, '93, '97, '99	H	D	Guilford
Margaret M.	Jeffus	1991, '93, '97, '99	H	D	Guilford
Margaret	Keesee-Forrester	1973, '79, '81, '83, '85, '87	H	R	Guilford
Annie B.	Kennedy	1979, '83, '85, '87, '89, '91, '93	H	D	Forsyth
Eleanor Gates	Kinnaird	1997, '99	S	D	Orange
Erin J.	Kuczmarski	1993	H	D	Wake
Doris L.	Lail	1989	H	R	Lincoln
Teena S.	Little	1995	S	R	Moore
Jeanne H.	Lucas	1993, '95, '97, '99	S	D	Durham
Edith L.	Lutz*	1975, '77, '79, '81, '83, '85, '87, '89, '91, '93	H	D	Cleveland
Elaine	Marshall	1993	S	D	Lee
Helen R.	Marvin	1977, '79, '81, '83, '85, '87, '89, '91	S	D	Gaston
Carolyn W.	Mathis	1973, '75, S: '77, '79, '81	H, S	R	Mecklenburg
Mary E.	McAllister	1991, '93, '95, '97, '99	H	D	Cumberland
Gertrude D.	McKee*	1931,'37, '43, '49	S	D	Jackson
Marian N.	McLawhorn	1999	H	D	Pitt
Carrie L.	McLean*	1927	H	D	Mecklenburg
Lily M.	Mebane*	1931, '33	H	D	Rockingham
Amelia "Mia"	Morris	1997, '99	H	R	Cumberland
Jane H.	Mosley*	1993, '97, '99	H	D	Wake
Mary Cordell	Nesbitt*	1975, '77, '79	H	D	Buncombe

First Name	Last Name	First year of term served	Chamber	Party	County
Geraldine R.	Nielson	1967, '69	S	R	Forsyth
Mary H.	Odom	1971, S: '75	H, S	D	Scotland
Mary N.	Pegg (Grady)	1979, '81	H	R	Forsyth
Beverly Eaves	Perdue	1987, '89, S: '91, '93, '95, '97, '99	H, S	D	Craven
Caredwyn T.	Phelps*	1961	H	D	Washington
Janet W.	Pickler	1975, '77	H	D	Stanly
Jean R.	Preston	1993, '95, '97, '99	H	R	Carteret
Arlene C.	Pulley	1995	H	R	Wake
Frances C.	Ramsey*	1965	H	R	Madison
Grace T.	Rodenbough*	1953, '55, '57, '59, '61, '63, '65	H	D	Stokes
Carolyn	Russell	1991, '93, '95, '97, '99	H	R	Lenoir
Katherine H.	Sebo	1975, '77, '79	S	D	Guilford
Frances E.	Setzer	1975, '77	H	D	Catawba
Mary P.	Seymour*	1977, '79, '81, '83, '85 S: '87, '91, '93	H, S	D	Guilford
Joanne	Sharpe	1995	H	R	Guilford
Wilma	Sherrill	1995, '97, '99	H	R	Buncombe
Fern	Shubert	1995, '97	H	R	Union
Margaret A.	Stamey	1983, '85, '87, '89, '91, '93	H	D	Wake
Lura S.	Tally	1973, '75, '77, '79, '81 S: '83, '85, '87, '89, '91, '93	H, S	D	Cumberland
Margaret R.	Tennile	1975, '77, '79, '81, '83	H	D	Forsyth
Betty D.	Thomas	1975, '77, '79, '81, '83	H	D	Cabarrus
Sharon A.	Thompson	1987, '89	H	D	Durham
Frances A.	Tomlin	1973	H	R	Cabarrus
Trudi	Walend	1999	H	R	Transylvania
Lois S.	Walker	1985, '87, '89	H	R	Iredell
Edith D.	Warren	1999	H	D	Pitt
Cynthia B.	Watson	1995, '97	H	R	Duplin
Alfreda J.	Webb*	1971	H	D	Guilford
Jennifer	Weiss**	1999	H	D	Wake
Elizabeth A.	Wilkie*	1973	S	R	Henderson
Constance K.	Wilson	S: 1989, H: '93, '95, '97, '99	S, H	R	Mecklenburg
Peggy A.	Wilson	1989, '91, '93	H	R	Rockingham
Leslie J.	Winner	1993, '95, '97	S	D	Mecklenburg
Myrtle E.	Wiseman*	1975, '77	H	D	Avery
Betty H.	Wiser	1985, '87, '89	H	D	Wake
Wilma C.	Woodard	1977, '79, '81, S: '83, '85	H, S	D	Wake

Deceased
****Appointed to complete Jane Mosely's term upon her death in 1999.***

Legislative Biographies

Alma S. Adams (1994-present) represents Guilford County as a Democrat in the N.C. House of Representatives. A native of High Point, Rep. Adams heads the visual arts department at Bennett College, and has sat on both the Greensboro City School Board and the Greensboro City Council. She has served as vice president of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus, and is a member of the Women's Political Caucus, N.C. Equity and the League of Women Voters.

Julia M. Alexander* (1925) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Mecklenburg County. Ms. Alexander, a Charlotte attorney, was admitted to the Bar in 1914. She wrote the book, "Mothers of Great Men," published in 1916. Ms. Alexander opposed the teaching of evolution in public schools.

Martha Bedell Alexander (1993-present) represents Mecklenburg County as a Democrat in the N.C. House of Representatives. A native of Florida, Rep. Alexander has lived in Charlotte for 30 years, where she worked as executive director of the Charlotte Council on Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency. She serves on the board of the Alcohol and Drug Council of North Carolina and the Governor's Commission on Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention. She was appointed by Gov. Jim Hunt to the Advisory Budget Commission in 1998.

Anne Elizabeth Bagnal (1979) was a Republican member of the N.C. Senate from Forsyth County. A native of Nashville, Tenn., Ms. Bagnal was a graduate of Winthrop College.

Anne Craig Barnes (1982-1996) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Orange County. During her tenure in the General Assembly, Ms. Barnes chaired the House Committees on Education and Correction. A former Orange County Commissioner and Gaston County native, Ms. Barnes is a member of the N.C. Environmental Management Commission, and was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 1995.

Cherie Killian Berry (1993-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Catawba County. A native of Newton, Rep. Berry is the owner of LGM Ltd., a manufacturing facility. She is a member of the N.C. Economic Development Board and the Mental Health Study Commission, and co-chairs the Welfare Reform Study Commission. Rep. Berry is a member of the American Business Women's Association, and in 1997 received the Friend of the Working People Award from the N.C. State AFL-CIO.

Marilyn R. Bissell (1973-1980) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Mecklenburg County. A native of New York, Ms. Bissell served on the Mecklenburg County Commission following her tenure in the General Assembly, and was elected to three terms as a district court judge starting in the mid-1980s. Ms. Bissell has been active on many boards and civic organizations in her more than 40 years in Charlotte.

Joanne Walker Bowie (1989-present) represents Guilford County as a Republican in the N.C. House of Representatives. A retired public relations specialist and former school teacher, Rep. Bowie served for 12 years on the Greensboro City Council, and was a charter member of the Greater Greensboro Republican Women's Club. She has been appointed to the Governor's Commission on Juvenile Crime and Justice, the State Sentencing Commission and the 2001 Transportation Commission.

Flossie Boyd-McIntyre (1995-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Guilford County. Residing in Jamestown, Ms. Boyd-McIntyre is former chair of Bennett College's communications department. She has served as House Democratic leadership whip and currently chairs the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and serves as first vice chair of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus. In 1997 she was recognized with a YWCA Woman of Achievement Award and was named an Outstanding Woman of Guilford.

Louise S. Brennan (1969, 1977-84) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Mecklenburg County. A native of Chester, S.C., Ms. Brennan was a professor of political science. She was the author of "Effects of Rule Changes or Delegate Selection for Presidential Nominations, 1960-76: The North Carolina Experience."

Mary Faye Brumby* (1965) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Cherokee County. A manufacturer and native of Georgia, Ms. Brumby was named a "Woman of the Week" of Cherokee County in 1964. She was a poet and author of an anthology of verse called "Christmas Lyrics."

Dorothy Rockwell Burnley (1981-84) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Guilford County. A native of High Point, she was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Burnley belonged to the National Federation of Independent Businesses, and was a board member and past president of the High Point Women's Shelter.

Nancy Winbon Chase* (1963, 1965-67, 1969, 1971, 1973-78) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wayne County. A native of Fremont, she was named Wayne County "Woman of the Year." She was a member of the board of trustees of Wayne Community College, and in 1965 received the Progressive Farmer Award for Rural Women of the Year in the South.

Debbie Clary (1995-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Cleveland County. Rep. Clary is a former broadcaster from Shelby, where she owned and operated WADA Radio. She has received numerous state awards for her work in the General Assembly, including being named the Home Health Care Legislator of the Year. Rep. Clary is a two-time winner of the Law Enforcement Legislator of the Year, and has received nationwide recognition for her Graduated Driver's License law, touted as one of the nation's best of its kind.

Lillian Exum Clement* (1921), the first woman in North Carolina and in the South to be elected to the state legislature, was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Buncombe County. Licensed to practice law in 1916, Ms. Clement was the first woman in North Carolina to begin a law practice without male partners.

Betsy L. Cochrane (H – 1981-1988; S – 1989-present) is a Republican senator from Advance. Sen. Cochrane served two terms as house minority leader, the first woman in leadership in the N.C. General Assembly. She has also served as senate minority leader. Sen. Cochrane serves as the chairman of the Senate's Study Commission on Aging and is a member of the Senate Ethics Committee. In 1987 she was named one of ten "Outstanding Legislators in the Nation," and in 1992 received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Iona T. Hargett Collier (1963, 1965-1966) served as a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Jones County. A native of Beulaville, she was a farmer, homemaker and member of the Jones County Democratic Executive Committee. Following her service in the General Assembly, she served for 12 years as postmaster of the Trenton Post Office, and remains active in church activities.

Marie Watters Colton (1979-1994) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Buncombe County. She was instrumental in the passage of legislation ensuring care for the elderly and the children of North Carolina. In 1991 she became the first woman to be elected as speaker pro tempore. Ms. Colton has served as director of the Vagabond School of Drama, the Brevard Music Center, the North Carolina Historic Preservation Foundation, and the University of North Carolina General Alumni Association.

Elinor C. Cook* (1961) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Macon County. A native of Highlands, she was a real estate agent and school teacher. She also served as the Highlands postmaster and was president of the Woman's Missionary Society.

Ruth E. Cook (1975-1984) served as a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wake County. Ms. Cook was born in Berlin, Germany and became a U.S. citizen in 1943. She was named the Top Woman Legislator and the Tenth Most Effective Legislator in the House of Representatives in 1983. Currently a public affairs consultant in Raleigh, she is a past president of the N.C. Consumers Council and a longtime member of the League of Women Voters. She is a recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Lillian Mayfield Cover* (1943, 1943, 1959) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Cherokee County. She was born in Murphy and was a music teacher. A delegate to the 1924 Democratic National Convention, she worked for the Equal Suffrage Amendment. She was a trustee at Western Carolina Teachers College.

Jennie Grier Craven* (1949) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Mecklenburg County. Born in Mecklenburg County, she was national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, and a member of the Democratic Executive Committee. She also served in the Woman's Section of the National Speakers Bureau.

Frances M. Cummings (1993-1995) served her first term in the N.C. House of Representatives as a Democrat and her second as a Republican representative of Robeson County. Ms. Cummings is a retired 31-year educator who serves on the board of directors of N.C. Equity and the UNC School of Public Health. She is the founder of the N.C. Council on Educating Black Children. In 1993 she was named Woman of the Year by the Robeson County Black Caucus.

Rachel Darden Davis* (1959, 1961, 1963) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Lenoir County. A physician and farmer, Dr. Davis was a delegate to the Moscow 1962 International Cancer Congress. She was the author of two books, "Life is Normal" and "Premarital Education."

Ann Quarterman Duncan (1985-1990) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Forsyth County. Ms. Duncan, who currently works as government relations liaison for Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice PLLC, served as chairperson of the Employment Security Commission from 1990-1996 and is a former assistant secretary for administration at the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources. She received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 1992.

Beverly Miller Earle (1995-present) is a Democratic member of the House of Representatives representing Mecklenburg County. A native of Greensboro, Rep. Earle has lived in Charlotte since 1977. A former business owner, she is a member of the Charlotte Convention and Visitor's Bureau, N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Summit House. Rep. Earle belongs to the Women's Political Caucus, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Women in Government and the National Order of Women Legislators.

Ruth Easterling (1977-present) is a Democratic member of the House of Representatives from Mecklenburg County. A native of Gaffney, S.C., Rep. Easterling has lived in Charlotte for more than 50 years. Her work in the General Assembly has helped secure funding for domestic violence centers, day care, rape crisis assistance and all facets of cultural resources. In the 1960s she was instrumental in the establishment of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. Rep. Easterling was a founding member of the N.C. Women's Political Caucus.

Susan Graham Ervin* (1949) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Mecklenburg County. A housewife and journalist, she was the widow of Joe W. Ervin, Congressman, Tenth Congressional District. She was the winner of an Atlantic Monthly nationwide essay contest and several national poetry prizes.

Theresa Harlow Esposito (1985-present) is a Republican member of the House of Representatives from Forsyth County. Born in Washington, D.C., Ms. Esposito was a delegate to the 1984, 1988 and 1992 Republican National Conventions. She is a member of the National Conference of State Legislators and the Council on Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Esposito is co-chair of the Appropriations Committee, and is a recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Martha Wright Evans* (H – 1963; S – 1965-66, 1967, 1969) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives and N.C. Senate from Mecklenburg County. A native of Philadelphia, Ms. Evans was the first woman elected to the Charlotte City Council. She received the Carnegie Foundation Scholarship Grant in 1959 for study at the World Affairs Center.

Jeanne Tucker Fenner (1979-1984) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wilson County. A native of Washington, D.C., Ms. Fenner was named a Legislator of the Year by the N.C Mental Health Centers Association. The National Association for Retarded Citizens recognized her in 1980 as the National Member of the Year.

Sue Ramsey Ferguson* (1947) was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Alexander County. Born around the turn of the century in Mecklenburg county, she was a homemaker and a farmer. She served as a delegate to the 1944 Democratic National Convention.

Thelma Richardson Fisher* (1955) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Transylvania County. A native of Virginia, she was the first Republican woman in the General Assembly, appointed by Gov. Luther Hodges to replace her ailing husband. She also served as secretary of the Brevard Chamber of Commerce.

Tressie Pierce Fletcher* (1961) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Alexander County. An attorney, she was a member of the State Republican Executive Committee, and former president of the N.C. Federation of Republican Women. She wrote "The Witches Spell", a one-act prize play.

Jo Graham Foster (1973-1992) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives. A former administrative assistant to the superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, she is a past-president of the N.C. Association of Educators, was a member of the National Education Association, and was a member of the Johnson C. Smith University Board of Visitors. She was named a "Woman of the Year" in 1986.

Virginia Ann Foxx (1995-present) is a Republican senator from Banner Elk. A native of Avery County, Dr. Foxx was the second woman to assume the presidency of a North Carolina community college when she was appointed president of Mayland Community College in 1987. She served three years on the Watauga Board of Education and two years as deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Administration. As a senator, Dr. Foxx's committee work includes service on the Education, Children and Human Resources and Information Technology Committees.

Charlotte Gardner (1985-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Salisbury. The first woman elected to the General Assembly from Rowan County, Rep. Gardner is secretary/treasurer of the Women's Legislative Caucus. She serves as corporate liaison for the Foundation of Women Legislators, and is state director for Women In Government. Born in Baltimore, Md., Rep. Gardner is a former high school educator.

Linda Garrou (1999-present) is a Democratic senator from Forsyth County. A former head of the Guardian ad Litem Program in Winston-Salem, Sen. Garrou is on the board of directors of the Habitat for Humanity. She is a past vice chairman of the Governor's Advocacy Council on Children and Youth, and was the founding president of the North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute.

Karen Elizabeth Gottovi (1991-1994) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from New Hanover County. A former school teacher, reference librarian and political consultant, Ms. Gottovi also served as a New Hanover County Commissioner from 1976-1984. She is also a past president of the League of Women Voters, and served as president of the Elected Women of the National Association of County Commissioners. Ms. Gottovi also is a member of the Women's Forum of North Carolina.

Rachel Gillean Gray (1977-1984) was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Guilford County. A native of Salisbury, she was mayor pro tem of High Point in 1973 and 1975. Ms. Gray is past president of the Mental Health Association.

Pat Oakes Griffin (1975-78) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Durham County. A Virginia native, Ms. Griffin was a member of Durham's Business and Professional Women.

Linda H. Gunter (1993-1994) was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate representing Wake County. A former school teacher, Ms. Gunter was a member of the National Education Association and the N.C. Association of Educators. She has been a member of the National Organization of Women, Women's Political Caucus and the Wake County Youth Services Advisory Board, and was a 1990 Fellow with the N.C. Institute of Political Leadership. Ms. Gunter was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship in 1989.

Kay Hagan (1999-present) is a member of the N.C. Senate from Greensboro. A civic leader, attorney and former banker, Ms. Hagan is a member of the Appropriations, Children and Human Resources, Education and Health Care Committees. She serves on the Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence, and is the legal representative to the Ethics Committee of Cone Hospital. Ms. Hagan is a Girl Scout leader and a member of the Triad Leadership Network.

Margaret Bledsoe Hayden (1981-1984) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Alleghany County. An educational consultant, Ms. Hayden was president of Future Heirloom Ltd., and served as mayor of Sparta from 1977-1981. She was involved with the American Association of University Women, and was a member of the 1980 Selection Committee for the Morehead Scholarship.

Bertha Merrill Holt (1975-1994) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Alamance County. In 1982 she became the first woman appointed to the Joint Commission on Governmental Operations and served several terms as chairman of the House Appropriations Expansion Budget Committee on Justice and Public Safety. Ms. Holt is currently a member of the Women's Forum of North Carolina and is on the board of the State Council for Social Legislation.

Julia C. Howard (1989-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Mocksville. A lifelong resident of Davie County, Ms. Howard is the owner of Howard Realty and Insurance Agency and Davie Builders Inc. She was elected to four terms on the Mocksville City Council, and currently serves as House Minority Whip. Ms. Howard is a member of the National Federation of Women Legislators and the Joint Legislative Women's Caucus.

Doris Rogers Huffman (1985-1992) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Catawba County. A native of Burke County, Ms. Huffman was a charter member of the Catawba Valley Home Builders Auxiliary and a member of the National Women in Government Roundtable. For the past six years she has worked with the Smart Start partnerships in the 29 western counties, helping to initiate opportunities for children to be healthy and successful with federal grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Judy Frances Hunt (1987-1994) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Watauga County. A native of Shelby, Ms. Hunt is a former member of the Watauga County Board of Commissioners and a former real estate broker in Blowing Rock. During her House tenure, she was chairperson of the Committee on Public Utilities. Ms. Hunt is a current member of the N.C. Utilities Commission and a former officer with N.C. Equity.

Patricia Stanford Hunt (1969, 1973-1982) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Orange County. A native of Dunn, Ms. Love is a former teacher and guidance counselor in Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools, and served as chief district court judge in Orange and Chatham counties from 1989-1994. While a member of the House, she served as chairperson of the Judiciary Committee from 1976-1980. She is a past member of the Governor's Council on the Advocacy of Youth and Children.

Wanda H. Hunt (1983-1990) was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Moore County. A past president of Cystic Fibrosis, she received a Volunteer Service award from National Cystic Fibrosis. Ms. Hunt was a former account executive with Resorts of Pinehurst Inc., and was a member of the National Conference of State Legislators.

Wilda Hurst (1975-1978) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Onslow County. Ms. Knight is the former owner and manager of General Insurance and Real Estate Agency, and was instrumental in bringing the Uniflite Boat Company to Onslow County, and in obtaining the Governor's Award for the Town of Swansboro. In 1979 she published "Tide Land News," the first newspaper in the Swansboro area.

Effie Griffith Hutchins* (1935-36, 1937) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Yancey County. She broke the World's Record for Cross-Country Hiking when she walked the 40 miles from Burnsville to Asheville in seven hours and thirty-eight minutes in 1927.

Verla Clemens Insko (1997-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Chapel Hill. A public policy consultant, Ms. Insko has served as an Orange County commissioner and as a member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education. She is chair of the House Aging Committee and the Education Subcommittee on Universities. Ms. Insko was a member of the 1999 UNC-CH Board of Visitors, and she received the 1987 Woman of the Year Award from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Council of Women's Organizations.

Mary Long Jarrell (1983-84, 1987-88, 1991-94, 1997-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Guilford County. A native of Winston-Salem, Ms. Jarrell is a former public school teacher and former member of the High Point City Council. She is chairperson of the House Economic Growth and Community Development Committee and the Local Government II Committee. She is a former member of the Guilford County Historic Properties Commission and former president of the YWCA Community Concert.

Margaret Moore Jeffus (1991-94, 1997-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Greensboro. A retired classroom teacher, Ms. Jeffus is a member of the N.C. Association of Educators, and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984. She is chairperson of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government and vice chairperson of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Capital Education. Ms. Jeffus also serves as the co-chairperson of the Legislative Study Commission on Job Training Programs.

Margaret Keesee-Forrester (1973-1988) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Guilford County. An account executive and teacher, she was named Teacher of the Year at the David Jones School in Greensboro in 1976 and 1977. Ms. Keesee-Forrester was recognized by The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greensboro in 1985.

Annie Brown Kennedy (1979-80, 1983-94) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Forsyth County. Ms. Kennedy was the first African-American woman elected to the N.C. House of Representatives. Rep. Kennedy served on the state's first Council on the Status of Women Board, and is a charter member of the Forsyth County Council on the Status of Women, establishing it as the first nonprofit council in the state. She was the first African-American female to become a presidential elector in North Carolina.

Eleanor Kinnaird (1997-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Orange County. The former mayor of Carrboro, Ms. Kinnaird chairs the State and Local Government Committee, and co-sponsored the Excellent Schools Act. She serves on the Environmental Review Commission, the Joint Legislative Public Assistance Commission and is an advisory member of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations. Ms. Kinnaird is a staff attorney for N.C. Prisoner Legal Services.

Erin J. Kuczmarski (1993-1994) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wake County. A chiropractor, she was a member of the N.C. Industrial Commission, the Capital Planning Commission and the Wake Democratic Women. During her tenure in the House she served on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and the Business and Labor Subcommittee on Labor Relations and Employment. She is former secretary of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Doris Leonhardt Lail (1989-90) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Lincoln County. A Lincoln County native, Ms. Lail was secretary-treasurer of Jim Lail and Associates, and a manager of Cato Stores. She is also a past president of the Lincoln County Republican Women's Club.

Teena S. Little (1995-1996) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Southern Pines. A former public school teacher, Ms. Little owned and managed a ladies clothing store, worked as a realtor and is associated with George W. Little & Associates, insurance brokers. Ms. Little is a former chairperson of the N.C. Teaching Fellows Commission, has served on the board of the N.C. Women's Fund and is a former member of the Moore County Board of Education.

Jeanne Hopkins Lucas (1993-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Durham. Ms. Lucas was the first African-American woman elected to the Senate, and is a retired education administrator and former foreign language teacher. She is the chairperson of the Children and Human Resources Committee and vice chairperson of the Health Care and Ways and Means Committees. Ms. Lucas was a delegate to the 1984 National Democratic Convention, and is a life member of the NAACP.

Edith Ledford Lutz* (1976-1994) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Cleveland County. A farmer and fruit grower, she was the first woman ever appointed and elected from Cleveland County to the House, and was the first woman to be appointed to the Cleveland County Farm Bureau Board. Ms. Lutz served as chairperson of the Local and Regional Government II Committee. She was selected as a "Woman of the Year" by the Cleveland Times.

Elaine Folk Marshall (1993-1994) was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Harnett County. Ms. Marshall made history in 1996 when she became the first woman ever to be elected to statewide office when she won the post of Secretary of State. She worked as a teacher, business owner and private attorney prior to entering public service. In 1998, the N.C. Federation of Business and Professional Women awarded her its "State Career Woman of the Year" title.

Helen Rhyne Marvin (1977-1992) was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Gaston County. As a senator, her first bill to become law was the Domestic Violence Act of 1979, which provided emergency relief for victims of abuse and violence. From 1977 to 1982, Sen. Marvin served as chairman of the N.C. Council on the Status of Women, and is a charter member of N.C. Equity Inc. In 1991 she was a recipient of the N.C. Association of Educators Excellence in Equity Award.

Carolyn W. Mathis (H – 1973-76; S – 1977-82) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives and N.C. Senate from Mecklenburg County. Involved in real estate management and special education, Ms. Mathis received the 1980 Dedicated Service Award from the Mecklenburg County Association for Retarded Citizens.

Mary E. McAllister (1991-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Cumberland County. Ms. McAllister is the executive director of Operation Sickle Cell Inc. in Fayetteville, and has worked for more than 20 years as an educator. She is a former member of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, and serves as chairperson of the House Public Health Committee. Ms. McAllister is a member of the NAACP.

Gertrude Dills McKee* (1931, 1937, 1943, 1949), North Carolina's first woman Senator, was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Jackson County. A former two-term president of the N.C. Federation of Women's Clubs and former president of the state United Daughters of the Confederacy, Ms. McKee was an advocate of welfare programs. She also served on the Jackson County Board of Education, and was a trustee at Western Carolina Teachers College, Peace College for Women, Brevard College and the University of North Carolina.

Marian Nelson McLawhorn (1999-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Greene and Pitt counties. Rep. McLawhorn is a former mayor and commissioner of the Town of Grifton, and has worked as a media coordinator. Vice chairperson of the Education Subcommittee on Community Colleges, she is also a member of the Smart Growth Study Commission. She is a member of N.C. Equity, and was named a 1999 N.C. Business and Professional Career Woman of the Year.

Carrie Lee McLean* (1927) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Mecklenburg County. A native of Lincolnton, she was licensed to practice law in 1918. She served as president of the Mecklenburg Bar Association in 1925, and was a public administrator for Mecklenburg County.

Lily Morehead Mebane* (1931, 1933) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Rockingham County. A native of Spray, she was a cotton manufacturer and a member of the prominent Morehead family. She was also a member of the Board of University Trustees.

Mia Morris (1996-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Fayetteville. A teacher and former legislative liaison to the N.C. General Assembly, Ms. Morris worked as a special assistant to the president for presidential personnel during the Bush administration. She was named 1997 Woman of the Year by the N.C. Federation of Young Republicans, and is a member of the Fayetteville Business and Professional Women's Association and the National Order of Women Legislators.

Jane Hurley Mosley* (1993-94, 1996-99) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wake County. Ms. Mosley was a long-time state employee and state coordinator and president of Cary Public Relations Inc. She was a past vice president of Democratic Women of Wake and past president of the Wake County unit of the American Cancer Society. Ms. Mosley used her own struggle with breast cancer to raise awareness of the issue and was a strong advocate for seat belts on school buses, auto-rail safety and education.

Mary C. Nesbitt* (1975-1980) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Buncombe County. A native of Asheville, she was an educational consultant. She was a recipient of Western Carolina University's Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to Education. Mrs. Nesbitt died in office on Aug. 1, 1979.

Geraldine R. Nielson (1967, 1969) was a Republican member of the N.C. Senate from Forsyth County. She was the first Republican woman in the N.C. Senate, and had worked as an office manager and accountant. A delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1968, she currently lives in Sandy, Utah, where she is a member and former officer of the Sandy Republican Club and the Salt Lake Council of Women.

Mary Horne Odom (H – 1971; S – 1975-76) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives and N.C. Senate from Scotland County. A native of Greenville, she was a teacher-coordinator of industrial cooperative training. Ms. Odom was a member of the National Education Association.

Mary Norwood Pegg (1979-1982) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Forsyth County. A native of Rockingham, Ms. Pegg was a homemaker with an interior design degree. In 1979 she received the N.C. Conservative Union Legislative Award. Ms. Pegg resigned in 1981.

Beverly Perdue (H –1987-90; S – 1991-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from New Bern. A co-chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, she sponsored and introduced legislation that brings in $20 of each divorce-filing fee for displaced homemaker programs across the state. She is a charter member of the Craven County Council on Women, and serves on the Craven, Carteret and Pamlico Chambers of Commerce, the Women's Forum and the UNC Board of Visitors.

Caredwyn Thomas Phelps* (1961) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Washington County. She was appointed to replace her husband, John Mahlon Phelps, director of Branch Bank & Trust of Plymouth.

Janet W. Pickler (1975-1978) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Stanly County. An assistant professor of speech at Pfeiffer College, Ms. Pickler was named an Outstanding Educator of America. She also received the Volunteer of the Year award from the Stanly County Mental Health Association.

Jean Rouse Preston (1993-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Emerald Isle. A retired educator, she was the director of education at the Caswell Center, and has a background in working with children with special needs. Ms. Preston has been a member of the National Education Association, the Council for Exceptional Children and an officer with the Crystal Coast Republican Women's Club.

Arlene C. Pulley (1995-1996) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wake County. Ms. Pulley is a former administrative officer of the Office of the Speaker, N.C. House; former chief of staff with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor; and former executive director of the Governor's Office of Citizen Affairs. She has been a member of the N.C. Parole Commission and the N.C. Capital Planning Commission.

Frances Crafton Ramsey* (1965) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Madison County. A Kentucky native, she taught home economics and science, and owned and operated a dairy and tobacco farm. She wrote her thesis "On the Fat Content of Green Beans."

Grace Taylor Rodenbough* (1953, 1955-56, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965-66) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Stokes County. The first woman with an extended career in the General Assembly, Ms. Rodenbough was supervisor of instruction for Stokes County Schools. A trustee of the University of North Carolina, she also taught at Salem College. She also managed her own farm of several hundred acres.

Carolyn Barnes Russell (1991-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wayne County. Ms. Russell was Speaker Pro Tempore in 1995. Prior to her election, she worked as the personnel director at the O'Berry Center in Goldsboro. Past president of the Methodist Home for Children, she received the Governor's Individual Leadership Award in 1981.

Katherine Hagen Sebo (1975-1980) was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Guilford County. Ms. Sebo was a professor in the Duke University School of Law, and was a member of the nominating panel for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. As a young adult, Ms. Sebo lived in South India.

Frances Ellen Setzer (1975-1978) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Catawba County. Ms. Setzer, a Catawba County native, was involved in textiles, banking and public health work. A North Carolina PTA field secretary, she received a masters degree in public health from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Mary Powell Seymour* (H – 1977-86; S – 1987-94) was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate and N.C. House of Representatives from Guilford County. A legal assistant and licensed real estate broker, Ms. Seymour has served as mayor pro tem of Greensboro and as a four-term member of the Greensboro City Council. She has served on the board of visitors of Peace College and as a member of the N.C. Arts Council.

Joanne Phipps Sharpe (1995-1996) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Guilford County. A self-employed design consultant, Ms. Sharpe belongs to the Institute of Business Designers, and was appointed to the Commission on Children and Youth by Gov. Jim Martin. Politically active, she is a member of the National Federation of Republican Women, and organized the first in the nation Breakfast Republican Women's Club.

Wilma Sherrill (1995-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Buncombe County. A native of Yadkin County and a local businesswoman since 1967, Ms. Sherrill was voted as one of the top 30 Most Influential Personalities in Asheville/Buncombe County. She has served as North Carolina's Motor Vehicles Commissioner and as the director of boards, commissions and personnel appointments under Gov. Jim Martin. Ms. Sherrill was named 1998 Legislator of the Year by the N.C. Humanities Council. She was instrumental in passing legislation to add $20 to the divorce filing fee which provides funds for Displaced Homemaker programs.

Fern Haywood Shubert (1995-1998) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Union County. A certified public accountant, Ms. Shubert has worked for Arthur Anderson & Company, the Internal Revenue Service and as tax director of the National Bank of Washington. She has sat on the boards of The Public School Forum and the N.C. Partnership for Children and served on the Citizens Advisory Task Force of the Union County Public Schools.

Margaret Ann Stamey (1983-1993) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wake County. A native of Asheville, Ms. Stamey was a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners, the Cary Women's Club and the Women's Forum of North Carolina. She was a charter member of the N.C. Child Advocacy Council and a member of the N.C. Human Relations Council.

Lura Self Tally (H – 1973-82; S – 1983-93) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives and N.C. Senate from Cumberland County. A native of Statesville, Ms. Tally was a teacher and guidance counselor in Fayetteville City Schools, a former president of the N.C. Society for the Preservation of Antiquities and a former president of the Fayetteville Women's Club. She was named the 1978 Business and Professional Woman of the Year in Fayetteville.

Margaret Rose Tennile (1975-1984) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Forsyth County. A Virginia native, Ms. Tennile was a member of the National Order of Women Legislators, and was involved with the Planning Commission for the Math-Science High School. She was also a member of the city board of directors of Southern National Bank.

Betty Dorton Thomas (1975-1984) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Cabarrus County. Ms. Thomas was appointed to her first term to complete the term of her deceased husband. A native of Shelby, she was president of A.W. Thomas & Son and Thomas Development Inc. She received a Service Award in 1979.

Sharon A. Thompson (1987-1990) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Durham County. An attorney with the Sharon Thompson Law Group since 1991, Ms. Thompson is a former member of the Durham County Board of Election, the Governor's Commission on Workplace Preparedness and the Durham Human Relations Commission. She has worked as a legislative counsel and lobbyist and is a member of the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers and N.C. Association of Women Attorneys.

Frances Ann Tomlin (1973) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Cabarrus County. A native of Lincolnton, Ms. Tomlin was a member of the city school board. She was a delegate to the White House Conference on Children in 1970.

Trudi Walend (1999-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Brevard. A former Transylvania County commissioner, Ms. Walend started and manages businesses in Brevard including Wishing Well Inc. and Ken's Mac Works. She directed the start-up of the WIC program in public health for Transylvania County, and also directed Henderson County's WIC program. Ms. Walend is active on the American Red Cross, the Land of Sky Regional Technology Committee and the Welfare Reform Committee.

Lois Simmons Walker (1985-1990) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Iredell County. A native of Mount Airy, she was a teacher, athletic director and counselor. Ms. Walker is a member of the American Association of Physical Education, Health and Recreation. She is former president and a life member of the Junior Service League.

Edith D. Warren (1999-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Farmville. An Edgecombe County native, Ms. Warren is a retired educator who was named Pitt County Principal of the Year in 1990. She is a former Pitt County commissioner and was named Farmville Citizen of the Year in 1996. Ms. Warren is a small business owner, member of the Farmville Chamber of Commerce, and was chairperson of the 1996 Farmville Dogwood Festival.

Cynthia Bailey Watson (1995-1998) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Duplin County. A Raleigh native, Ms. Watson is an interior designer and saleswoman. She is a past director of Duplin County's Community Arts in Residency Training (CART), and has served on the board of directors of Sarah's Domestic Violence Center in Duplin County. She has also served on the board of trustees of James Sprunt Community College.

Alfreda Johnson Webb* (1971) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Guilford County. Ms. Webb was appointed as the first African-American woman in the General Assembly following the close of session. She taught college math and biology, and was the first African-American female veterinarian in the United States.

Jennifer Weiss (1999-present) is a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wake County. Ms. Weiss was appointed by Gov. Jim Hunt to fill the unexpired term of the late Rep. Jane Mosley. Ms. Weiss, an attorney and stay-at-home mom, has been an active volunteer in her children's schools for the last five years, and has also volunteered with SAFEchild. She is a former legal services coordinator at The Women's Center in Raleigh.

Elizabeth Anne Wilkie* (1973) was a Republican member of the N.C. Senate from Henderson County. A native of Hendersonville, Ms. Wilkie was an artist and homemaker, and was secretary-treasurer of Hoopers Creek. She was a delegate to the Republican State Convention.

Constance K. Wilson (S – 1989-90; H – 1993-present) is a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Mecklenburg County. A banker with Bank of America, Ms. Wilson has been involved with the N.C. Institute for Politics and the Darden School for Emerging Political Leaders. She is a member of the Governor's Council on Literacy and the Governor's Commission on Infant Mortality.

Peggy Ann Wilson (1989-1994) was a Republican member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Rockingham County. Trained as a nurse, Ms. Wilson was an insurance manager and past president of the Rockingham County Federation of Republican Women, who named her Woman of the Year in 1986.

Leslie J. Winner (1993-1998) was a Democratic member of the N.C. Senate from Mecklenburg County. A native of Asheville and an attorney, Ms. Winner served as Senate Majority Whip in 1997-1998, was Senate chairman of the Mental Health Study Commission, and was a sponsor of the Excellent Schools Act. Ms. Winner is a recipient of the Mecklenburg County Women's Equality Day Award. She has worked as a private attorney, adjunct professor at the UNC School of Law and is currently general counsel to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education.

Myrtle Eleanor Wiseman* (1975-1978) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Avery County. A native of Boone, she was elected as the United State's most popular female entertainer (radio) in 1936 and 1937. She co-wrote "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You."

Betty Hutchinson Wiser (1985-1990) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives from Wake County. Ms. Wiser was president of Retirement Planning Associates Inc., and executive director of the Wake County Council on Aging. She is former state president of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Wilma Woodard (H – 1977-82; S – 1983-86) was a Democratic member of the N.C. House of Representatives and N.C. Senate from Wake County. Ms. Woodard belonged to the National Order of Women Legislators, and served on the N.C. White House Conference on Aging in 1980-81. She was the co-chairperson of the Governor's Conference on Women & the Economy in 1983. Ms. Woodard was recognized in 1984 as Woman of the Year by the Wake County American Business Women's Association.

***Deceased**

Distinguished Women of North Carolina

1984-1999

History of the Distinguished Women of North Carolina Awards

The "Distinguished Women of North Carolina" Award is given to women who demonstrate excellence in their performances, make major contributions that have impact in the community, show leadership through motivating others, and open doors through opportunities for women.

The use of different categories was first employed in 1992 and has expanded over the years. There are nine awards categories: Arts, Business, Education, Government, Physical Fitness/Recreation, Professions, Volunteerism, the Jean Nelson Award and the Lillian Exum Clement Stafford Journalism Award (new in 2000). On some occasions in the history of the awards, a Public Service Award has been given to an additional nominee, in recognition of her contributions in numerous award categories. A selection committee chooses award recipients from nomination pools.

The Arts Award recognizes significant contributions to the visual, literacy, cultural or performing arts, media, communications, or to an organization which promotes artists, art programs, or historic preservation.

The Business Award recognizes excellence in the business and/or corporate community. The nominee may be retired, self-employed, or otherwise working in the business field.

The Education Award recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of education through teaching, administration, research, and/or participation in professional education associations.

The Government Award recognizes accomplishments that have enhanced the quality of life for both the citizens and the community. Nominees may have worked in international, federal, state or local government as an employee or an elected/appointed official.

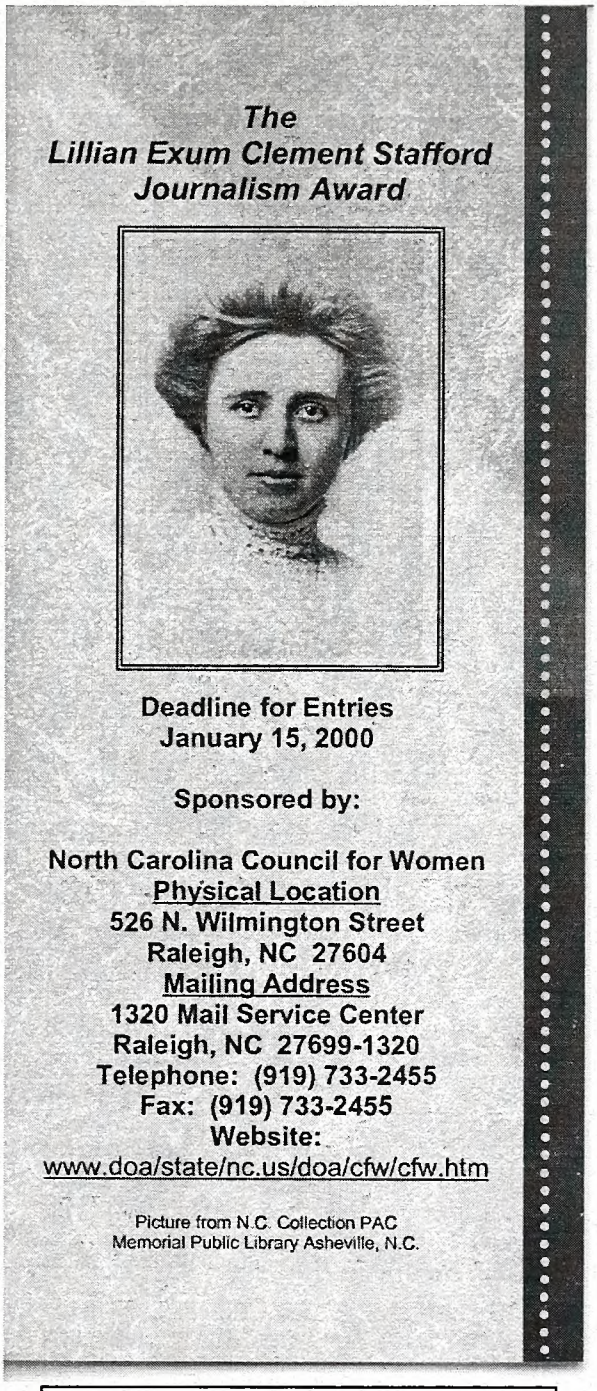
The Physical Fitness/Recreation Award recognizes individual contributions and achievements in the field of sports, physical fitness and/or recreation. The nominee may have promoted these fields through individual performance, teaching, organizing programs, or assisting others.

The Professions Award recognizes the achievements and/or contributions of an individual in a recognized profession. The nominee may have excelled in her profession through research, innovation, or individual performance.

The Volunteerism Award recognizes significant contributions made to the community through devotion of time and energy, with the goal of improving and enhancing the lives of citizens as a volunteer.

The Jean Nelson Award, first given in 1999, honors the memory of Jean Nelson, a former Council for Women region director who passed away in 1998. The award recognizes a woman for outstanding contributions for the betterment of women in North Carolina and for the best overall work in promoting and carrying out the purpose and mission of the North Carolina Council for Women.

The Lillian Exum Clement Stafford Journalism Award, honors the memory of Lillian Exum Clement Stafford, an Asheville native, who was the first female legislator in the South. The award recognizes the female journalist whose contributions and achievements in covering women's issues and events are considered outstanding.



Brochure for the Lillian Exum Clement Stafford Journalism Award.

1984
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1984 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Ruth Jones, Ellen Winston, Martha McKay, Gov. Jim Hunt, Deborah McKeithan. (*Not pictured*: Elizabeth Dole)

Name	Hometown
Elizabeth Hanford Dole	Salisbury
Ruth Braswell Jones	Rocky Mount
Martha Clampitt McKay	Raleigh
Deborah Crouch McKeithan	Charlotte
Ellen Black Winston*	Raleigh

Elizabeth Hanford Dole of Salisbury has become a role model for women across the nation. In 1983 she became the first woman appointed as U.S. Secretary of Transportation, and served as U.S. Secretary of Labor from 1989-1991. Ms. Dole received her undergraduate degree from Duke University, and went on to become one of the first women to receive a law degree from Harvard Law School. As president of the American Red Cross from 1991-1999, Ms. Dole oversaw 30,000 staff members and 1.4 million volunteers. She resigned this post to explore campaign in 2000 to become the first woman president of the United States. Though she dropped out of the race before announcing her formal candidacy, many cite Ms. Dole as the first credible woman candidate for the presidency.

Ruth Braswell Jones of Rocky Mount, a woman of many "firsts," was a leader and pacesetter in North Carolina's educational arena for six decades. Ms. Jones was the first woman in North Carolina to have been president of two state education associations -- the N.C. Teachers Association and the N.C. Association of Educators. Her leadership and persistence made the merger of these organizations into one of the most viable professional organizations in the country. She was the first African-American woman from North Carolina to be elected a member of the board of directors of the National Education Association, and was the organizer and first African-American chairman of the N.C. Political Action Committee for Education. Challenging those she taught to reach their potential, Ms. Jones opened doors for others of her race and her gender.

Martha Clampitt McKay, formerly of Raleigh, is known as a crusader for women's rights, and was the driving force behind many of the important accomplishments for women in North Carolina. Her efforts on behalf of women began in the 1960s, when she persuaded Gov. Terry Sanford to create the Council on the Status of Women. In 1971 she established the North Carolina Women's Political Caucus, and initiated the thrust that propelled North Carolina into the women's movement of the 1970s. A pioneer in the education of women executives, Ms. McKay founded the Women's Forum to challenge women leaders to become catalysts for change. She served as assistant secretary for productivity at the N.C. Department of Administration from 1981-1985, and was a special assistant to Sen. Terry Sanford from 1987-1991.

Deborah Crouch McKeithan of Charlotte has been a pioneer in both the political and personal arenas for the physically disabled. Partially paralyzed, legally blind, and unable to read or write after being stricken with cerebral multiple sclerosis, Ms. McKeithan attained national recognition in 1975 as the founder of the first support group for women with disabilities, Handicapped Organized Women (HOW). The group, which has evolved into Learning HOW, focuses on helping disabled men and women find employment and ways to live independently. Ms. McKeithan was a driving force behind the enactment in 1990 of federal laws that allow persons with disabilities to work and still receive Medicare health insurance. Despite her illness, she has been politically active on both the state and local levels, including service from 1987 to 1993 on the N.C. Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities.

Ellen Black Winston*, formerly of Raleigh, is recognized throughout the state and nation as a pioneer in the effective administration of public welfare programs. A native of Bryson City, Dr. Winston earned a doctorate in sociology, and in 1994 was appointed as North Carolina's fourth commissioner of public welfare. In this position Dr. Winston earned a reputation as an able administrator with a thoughtful, caring approach who pushed to break the cycle of dependency in needy families, promoted scholarships for needy children and boarding home care for the elderly. President John F. Kennedy appointed her as the nation's first commissioner of public welfare in 1963; her program grew in the subsequent Johnson administration into an important part of the "War on Poverty." Among many career highlights, Winston served terms as president of the National Conference on Social Welfare, vice president of the Child Welfare League of America and state legislative chairman of the American Association of University Women.

1985
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1985 Distinguished Women Recipients *(l-r)* Virginia Davis, Jane Patterson, Florence Ryan, Gov. Jim Martin. (*Not pictured*: Elizabeth Koontz, Barbara Proctor)

Name	Hometown
Virginia B. Davis*	Stoneville
Elizabeth Duncan Koontz*	Salisbury
Jane Smith Patterson	Chapel Hill
Barbara Gardner Proctor	Black Mountain
Florence I. Ryan*	Asheville

Virginia B. Davis* of Stoneville has dedicated herself to elevating the lives of rural people, children and the elderly. A graduate of UNC-Greensboro with a degree in home economics, she was recruited for leadership roles on the local, county and state level. Listed in the first edition of *Who's Who Among American Women* in 1958, she was appointed by Gov. Luther Hodges to the board of the N.C. Rural Electrification Authority, a position she held for eight years. In 1946 she became a member of the N.C. State Grange, a rural community service family organization. She was cited by them in 1978 for services rendered and program implementation.

Dr. Elizabeth Duncan Koontz* of Salisbury was a North Carolina educator for thirty years who became the first black president of the National Education Association. She attained another first by becoming the first black director of the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau upon her appointment by President Richard Nixon. A champion of the rights of minority women, she fought for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Following her national service, she continued her service to North Carolina by serving as coordinator of state nutrition programs with the N.C. Department of Human Resources. Her final career appointment was as assistant state superintendent with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Devoting her life to education and humanitarian efforts, Dr. Koontz received more than thirty honorary degrees and many citations during her lifetime of leadership.

Jane Smith Patterson of Chapel Hill was the first woman to lead the N.C. Department of Administration. In this position, she worked to address the economic, social and legal problems of women in North Carolina, addressing the issue of comparable worth, and supporting the findings of the Council on the Status of Women. As part of this commitment she established programs to assist displaced homemakers, to train women for non-traditional jobs and inform women of their legal and economic rights in state government. Currently serving as Gov. Jim Hunt's senior advisor for science and technology and director of the Board of Science and Technology, Ms. Patterson has a major role in all activities involving science and technology in North Carolina, particularly in the field of information technology. She was a major visionary and leader in the development and implementation of the N.C. Information Highway, and was recognized in 1995 as one of the United State's top women in computing.

Barbara Gardner Proctor of Chicago grew up in a shack with no running water or electricity in Black Mountain, N.C. Citing poverty as one of her strongest motivators, in 1970 she founded the nation's first advertising agency owned and operated by a black woman. Ms. Proctor decided her company would be an instrument of social change and refused to sell advertising of products she does not feel are in the best interest of the consumer. Taking a firm stand against unfair hiring practices for women and minorities, women were major decision-makers in all levels of the business. President Ronald Reagan saluted Ms. Proctor's spirit of enterprise in his 1984 state of the union address by referring to her as a "hero of the eighties." Ms. Proctor has been inducted into the Smithsonian Institution's Hall of Fame, and profiled in its Black Women's Achievements Against the Odds Exhibition.

Florence I. Ryan* of Asheville spent her life working for advancements in voter education, registration and women's rights. Her lifelong interest in women's suffrage was ignited during her years of undergraduate study at Bryn Mawr College, from which she graduated in 1917. She received a master's degree from Smith College in the 1930s, and worked as a social worker with the American Red Cross during World War II. Following the war she worked at the Asheville VA Medical Center until retirement at age 70. She was an active member of the YWCA, the League of Women Voters, the N.C. Women's Political Caucus, the National Organization for Women and the Buncombe County Democratic Women. Ms. Ryan's activism continued late in her life; even at age 84 she was known to have traveled in the early morning from Asheville to Raleigh to take part in a demonstration in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment.

1986
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1986 Distinguished Women Recipients *(l-r)* Ruth Woods, Maggie Wachacha, Helen Edmonds, Elizabeth Carrington, Gertrude Carraway.

Name	Hometown
Gertrude S. Carraway*	New Bern
Elizabeth Scott Carrington	Burlington
Helen G. Edmonds*	Durham
Maggie Axe Wachacha*	Robbinsville
Ruth Dial Woods	Pembroke

Gertrude S. Carraway* of New Bern is renowned for her love of North Carolina history and historic preservation. She was instrumental in, and dedicated to, the rebuilding of New Bern's Tryon Palace, which had fallen into disrepair. Miss Carraway led the campaign to move U.S. 70 and the Trent River Bridge, which crossed the palace site. She worked tirelessly during the restoration of Tryon Palace, which has ultimately become a popular tourist spot and jewel among North Carolina's restored landmarks. Miss Carraway served on the State Historical Commission for 40 years, and in 1939 helped found the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina. On the national scene, she served a three-year term in the 1950s as president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Elizabeth Scott Carrington of Burlington helped establish the UNC School of Nursing as the first nationally-accredited nursing school in North Carolina. Following a 16-year stint as a student, nurse and instructor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, she returned to Alamance County, where during World War II she trained and supervised the staffing of nurses aides in hospitals. In 1953, Ms. Carrington chaired an advisory committee to formulate the policies of the new four-year nursing school of the UNC Medical School. Through her work to improve nursing education, she became a recruiter, program planner, lobbyist and fundraiser and secured $5 million for the nursing school. She was instrumental in establishing the continuing education program at the UNC School of Nursing, the first statewide program of its kind in the nation.

Dr. Helen G. Edmonds* of Durham was a famous black historian, educator and political appointee under the administration of President Richard Nixon. Dr. Edmonds was the first black woman to receive a Ph.D. in history from Ohio State University, and the first African-American to become a dean of a graduate school of arts and sciences (at North Carolina Central University). Dr. Edmonds was the first black woman in the nation's history to "second the nomination" of a candidate for the presidency -- that of Dwight Eisenhower at the 1956 Republican National Convention. She was appointed to four important diplomatic and governmental posts during the Nixon administration. From 1941 to 1977, Dr. Edmonds worked at North Carolina Central University, where she held several positions such as history professor, history department chair and member of the university board of trustees.

Maggie Wachacha* of Robbinsville was a midwife, educator, and long-time tribal clerk with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Ms. Wachacha dedicated her life to midwifery and herbal medicine healing. Although her formal education was limited, Ms. Wachacha was literate in both the Cherokee and English languages, and was a highly respected role model amongst members of her tribe. As clerk of the Tribal Council of Cherokee Indians for 50 years, she transcribed the minutes of each session; her mastery of languages in this task has left future generations with a reliable portrait of the Cherokee's colorful history and proud heritage. In 1984, during a council meeting between the Eastern and Western Band of Cherokees, council members bestowed the title "Beloved Woman" upon Ms. Wachacha, the most prestigious title granted by the two Cherokee nations.

Ruth Dial Woods of Pembroke has successfully promoted and encouraged the unity of Indian peoples at the local, state and national levels, influencing national legislation affecting American Indian and Alaskan native peoples. A graduate of Pembroke State University with a master's degree in educational administration and supervision, she entered the teaching profession in Robeson County and in 1982 became the first woman to be appointed assistant superintendent of Robeson County Schools. Ms. Woods is an advocate for women's and Indians' rights, and has achieved distinction as a community leader and organizer, including appointment by President Jimmy Carter to the Continuing Committee of International Woman's Year and election to the presidency of the North Carolina Business and Professional Women.

1987
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1987 Distinguished Women Recipients *(l-r)* Mary Chiltoskey, Bonnie Cone, Alice Hannibal, Gov. Jim Martin, Helen Marvin, Helen Powers.

Name	Hometown
Mary Ulmer Chiltoskey	Cherokee
Bonnie Ethel Cone	Charlotte
Alice Priscilla Statemen Hannibal*	Kinston
Helen Rhyne Marvin	Gastonia
Helen Ann Powers	Raleigh

Mary Ulmer Chiltoskey of Cherokee began her work in North Carolina at the Cherokee Indian Reservation in 1942 as a teacher and later as school librarian. A keeper of Cherokee tribal myths, legends and medicinal lore, she has been a major force in collecting, writing and sharing the Cherokee way of life. Ms. Chiltoskey organized the first Cherokee Public Library that opened in 1970 and is director of the Free Book Distribution Center, which gives books to children, the needy and senior citizens. Awards have recognized her storytelling abilities and her service to Girl Scouting, 4-H, the North American Indian Women's Association, Cherokee Child and Family Services and the Cherokee Reservation Agricultural Extension Service. In 1986 she received the Mountain Heritage Award from Western Carolina University.

Bonnie Ethel Cone of Charlotte went from teaching high school to eventually engineering the development of UNC-Charlotte. Following the end of World War II while teaching at Charlotte's Central High School, Ms. Cone taught math part-time at the Charlotte Center of the University of North Carolina. She soon became the center's director, and in 1949 engineered the formation of Charlotte College, which joined the state's community college system in 1958. In 1965 the school became the fourth campus of the University of North Carolina, of which Ms. Cone served as acting chancellor and vice chancellor for student affairs and community relations. Ms. Cone was a member of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in the mid-1960s, and through her membership on a committee studying post-high school education, she influenced the creation of the state's community college system.

Alice Priscilla Statemen Hannibal* of Kinston blazed new trails in North Carolina, becoming both her city's first woman and first African-American councilperson. Ms. Hannibal's community service spanned many decades, and included work at the Caswell Center, a state facility. She was committed to improving local human relations and securing equal rights for all citizens, earning the recognition of three governors for her efforts. Ms. Hannibal received numerous honors and awards throughout the years for volunteerism and work in the human rights arena; following her death, Kinston's City Hall Annex was renamed the Alice S. Hannibal Building in her memory.

Helen Rhyne Marvin, a former state senator from Gastonia, was known for her tireless support of legislation to benefit women and children. As a senator, her first bill to become law was the Domestic Violence Act of 1979, which provided emergency relief for victims of abuse and violence. Sen. Marvin introduced legislation providing for the equitable distribution of marital property, and was the moving force behind legislation that addressed the problem of child support enforcement. From 1977 to 1982, Sen. Marvin served as chairman of the N.C. Council on the Status of Women, and is a charter member of N.C. Equity Inc., which promotes economic opportunities for low-income women. In 1991 she was a recipient of the N.C. Association of Educators Excellence in Equity Award, which recognizes longstanding efforts and leadership in the quest for equity of all people in society.

Helen Ann Powers of Asheville worked in the textile industry, in executive-level banking positions with NCNB (presently Bank of America) and as a securities broker before she became North Carolina's first woman to lead the Department of Revenue. As the state's chief tax collector from 1984 to 1990, Ms. Powers enhanced the department's efficiency through greater automation, developed an outreach program to help citizens gain a better understanding of the tax system and improved the department's tax research efforts. Ms. Powers has been recognized as one of the state's most prominent women banking executives, serving as a member of the North Carolina Banking Commission. She has held a number of offices in the North Carolina Bankers Association, and has served on the American Bankers Association Government Relations Council.

1988
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1988 Distinguished Women Recipients *(l-r)* Jonnie McLeod, Patric Dorsey, Gov. Jim Martin, Geneva Hamilton, Rhoda Billings *(Not pictured*: Kay Yow.)

Name	Hometown
Rhoda Bryan Billings	Lewisville
Patric Griffee Dorsey	Pinehurst
Geneva Bass Hamilton	Goldsboro
Jonnie Horn McLeod	Charlotte
Kay Yow	Raleigh

Rhoda Bryan Billings of Wilkesboro in 1986 was selected as the second woman to serve as chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, also becoming the first Republican chief justice since 1903. Ms. Billings graduated first in her class from the Wake Forest University School of Law, where she was the only female of her class. Following a stint practicing law in the private sector, she was elected to a four-year term as a state district court judge, then returned to Wake Forest School of law to teach, where she has remained since 1973. Ms. Billings has served as a commissioner at the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, and has been chairman of the North Carolina Parole Commission. In 1991 she became the first female president of the N.C. Bar Association. A vigorous supporter of the Republican Party, Ms. Billings has been active in politics since the Eisenhower administration.

Patric Griffee Dorsey of New Bern through her work as Secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources became a pioneer with the North Carolina Information Network and the Motheread Program. Under her leadership, the State Library division became the base for a network of computers which joins the state's centers of higher learning, major corporations and government agencies, tapping into almost limitless national and international databases. Ms. Dorsey also inspired the Motheread Program, a pioneer literacy project aimed at enabling female inmates to read to their children. Ms. Dorsey was also appointed by President Reagan to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education. Currently retired in Pinehurst, Ms. Dorsey has served on many boards and commissions, including the N.C. Arts Council, the N.C. Symphony, the N.C. School of the Arts and the Governor's Commission on Literacy.

Geneva Bass Hamilton, a community leader in Goldsboro, is the president of Hamilton Funeral Homes of Goldsboro, Wilson and LaGrange. One of her greatest achievements was the founding and implementation of Operation Bootstrap, a community action program that organized thousands of local volunteers, motivating people from all walks of life to "lift themselves and their brothers." She has also served as chairwoman of the board of directors of Dillard Building Inc., working with the organization's business incubator that housed eight businesses, two of which are women-owned. Ms. Hamilton is a lifetime member of the NAACP and has served as local secretary, president and chairman of the labor and industry committees. She has served on numerous local and state boards including the Goldsboro Human Relations Commission and the March of Dimes, and was statewide chairman of the "Mother of the Year" program.

Jonnie Horn McLeod of Charlotte is recognized nationally as a pioneer in the field of drug abuse prevention. The founder of the Charlotte Drug Education Center and Charlotte Open House for drug rehabilitation, she has been a consultant to the White House and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Dr. McLeod has worked as chairwoman of the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Among Children and Youth and president of the Mecklenburg Medical Society. As a member of the North Carolina Medical Society, she was called upon for the sensitive role of intervention with impaired colleagues and to assist them toward recovery. Dr. McLeod has also served as a professor in the Department of Human Services at UNC-Charlotte, where she prepared young professionals to become more effective in the work of strengthening families.

Kay Yow of Cary has entered her 25th year at N.C. State University as one of the most successful coaches in the history of women's basketball. Coach Yow, a native of Gibsonville, began her college coaching career at Elon College nearly 30 years ago before coming to N.C. State in 1976. As one of the most admired and respected coaches on both the international and collegiate basketball scene, Coach Yow has over 500 wins under her belt as head of N.C. State's women's basketball program. She has worked with two U.S. Olympic teams, guiding the 1988 team to a gold medal. She also led the USA National Team to a gold medal at the 1986 Goodwill Games. Coach Yow is a noted speaker and clinician, conducting clinics and speaking for charitable organizations all over the country. She is a past president of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

1989
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1989 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Elna Spaulding, Sarah Humphries, Delilah Blanks, Gov. Jim Martin, Gertrude Elion, Grace Rohrer.

Name	Hometown
Delilah B. Banks	Riegelwood
Gertrude B. Elion*	Chapel Hill
Sarah B. Humphries	Jacksonville
Grace Jemison Rohrer	Deep Gap
Elna B. Spaulding	Durham

Delilah B. Blanks of Riegelwood was the first woman elected to the Bladen County Board of Commissioners, on which she has served for eleven years. She is currently the first vice president of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, and will become president of this organization in August 2000. Dr. Blanks received a doctorate in public health from UNC-Chapel Hill, and directed the social work education program at UNC-Wilmington for 22 years. Dr. Blanks was the first African-American to serve as chairman of the Bladen County Democratic Party, and is credited with motivating and recruiting minority students to the UNC system. She has been honored for achievement and service in the fields of education, community service, drug abuse prevention and religious affairs.

Gertrude Elion* of Chapel Hill was one of the nation's most distinguished research scientists and one of three awarded the 1988 Nobel Prize in medicine. Ms. Elion's work at Burroughs Wellcome in conjunction with Dr. George Hitchings led to several lifesaving medicines, including drugs to treat leukemia, herpes and immunity disorders. Ms. Elion broke down gender barriers in the male-dominated world of scientific research, and was noted for her precise work, intellectual brilliance and ability to work with others. Though she officially retired in the early 1980s, she continued working, helping to oversee work on the development of AZT as the first drug against HIV. Ms. Elion, who served on the faculty of Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill, was a leader of Glaxo Wellcome's Women in Science Scholars Program, which provides mentoring and scholarship opportunities for women studying science. In 1991, Ms. Elion became the first woman inducted to the Inventors Hall of Fame, and President Bush awarded her a National Medal of Science.

Sarah B. Humphries of Jacksonville has been credited with establishing the Clean Sweep and Beach Sweep programs to rid North Carolina's roadways and beaches of litter -- initiatives that have received national recognition. Ms. Humphries, the coordinator of Onslow County's Clean County program, has made the county a better place to live through her creative and innovative leadership and exceptional organizational skills. Her contributions have reduced the county litter stream by 70 percent, and she was an integral part of cleaning up Jacksonville's waterfront. Ms. Humphries has served on the Onslow County Human Services Council and the Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina. She has been a board member of N.C. Keep America Clean and Beautiful, and has been active in the League of Women Voters.

Grace Rohrer-Huff of Boone was the first woman in North Carolina to hold a cabinet-level government position. She headed the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources from 1973-1977, and led the N.C. Department of Administration from 1985-1987. Ms. Rohrer-Huff is the retired director of the Appalachian Humanities Project at Appalachian State University. She was the founder and central figure in the formation of the North Carolina Women's Political Caucus in 1972, and is one of the founders and key organizers of the Women's Forum. She has been an elementary school teacher, organized a day care program to provide educational opportunities for needy children, initiated a degree in arts management at Salem College and headed development for UNC Television. Her honors include receiving a Distinguished Woman Award from the N.C. Federation of Women's Clubs.

Elna B. Spaulding of Durham had made it her specialty to work on behalf of those agencies serving human needs. In this vein, Ms. Spaulding became the founder and was past president of Women In Action Against Violence and Its Causes, a domestic violence support and community service organization that has been in existence for more than thirty years. Ms. Spaulding was also the first woman to be elected to the Durham Board of Commissioners, where she served five terms from 1974-1984. In 1998 she was inducted into the Hall of Distinction of the African-American Cultural Complex in Raleigh for her contributions to education and community service in North Carolina. Ms. Spaulding has been a member of the YWCA of Durham, the League of Women Voters, the N.C. School of the Arts, Child Advocacy of Durham Board and the Governor's Citizen Committee on Schools. She was honored by the Durham County Women's Commission with its 1988 Women's Equality Award, and won Leadership Recognition that same year from the National Council of Negro Women.

1990
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1990 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Geneva Bowe, Virginia Brown, Andee Atkinsson, Nancy Temple (presenter), Carolyn McKecuen, Virginia Foxx.

Name	Hometown
Andee Carol Atkinsson	Brevard
Geneva Jones Bowe	Murfreesboro
Virginia Hall Brown	Wilkesboro
Virginia Foxx	Banner Elk
Carolyn McKecuen	Elizabeth City

Andee Carol Atkisson of Brevard is a renowned designer of pool tables, president and co-owner of Sterling Billiard Manufacturing Company, and comptroller and designer at Peter Vitalie Manufacturing. Both companies are located in the western North Carolina town of Rosman. Ms. Atkisson hand carves custom-made pool tables, and half of her employees are women. Perhaps her most important state achievement is the promotion of a billiards "Hall of Fame" for North Carolina. Ms. Atkisson led the effort to have billiards admitted into the International Olympic Games, and has worked for the World's Billiard Congress. She has also been a national leader in the war against drugs, working with world-class billiard players to form billiard leagues through high schools, colleges and recreation centers to keep children off the streets and away from drugs.

Geneva Jones Bowe of Murfreesboro devoted her life to education through her work, involvement in civic organizations and her volunteer service to the community. An educator for 43 years until her retirement in 1978, Ms. Bowe taught for 15 years, supervised Hertford County's 15 black schools, and following integration supervised grades K-4. Ms. Bowes was a member of the board of trustees at Elizabeth City State University, and received a gubernatorial appointment to the UNC Board of Governors, of which she served as secretary. She was also a member of the Hertford County Alzheimer's Support Group. She received the Presidential Citation from the National Association of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education and was selected as one of the "Women of the Century" by the Hertford County Council on the Status of Women.

Virginia Hall Brown of Wilkesboro was a woman of "firsts" at the county's Modern Globe facility, an apparel manufacturer. A pioneer for other women in supervisory and management ranks at Modern Globe, Ms. Brown began as a plant sewing operator. Over the span of more than three decades she rose through the ranks to become the company's first female pattern maker, quality control manager, vice president and finally president in 1989. Ms. Brown was also the first woman divisional president of Modern Globe's parent company, VF Corporation, one of the world's largest publicly traded apparel companies. A lifelong resident of Wilkes County, Ms. Brown was the tenth of eleven children born to the Hall family.

Virginia Foxx of Banner Elk, currently in her third term as a North Carolina senator, was the second woman to assume the presidency of a North Carolina community college. A native of Avery County, Dr. Foxx was the first woman president of her high school senior class at Crossnore, N.C., and was appointed president of Mayland Community College in 1987 after receiving her Ed.D. from UNC-Greensboro. Dr. Foxx was an instructor and assistant dean of the General College at Appalachian State University, pioneered the Project Upward Bound and taught the first Women's Studies course at ASU. She served three years on the Watauga Board of Education and two years as deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Administration. As a senator, Dr. Foxx's committee work includes service on the Education, Children and Human Resources and Information Technology Committees.

Carolyn McKecuen of Elizabeth City, a potter and member of the Watermark Association of Artisans, in 1981 became the manager of the Arts and Crafts Association and saved it from bankruptcy. Since this time, Ms. McKecuen has turned the cooperative into a national model, Camden County's largest employer and a tourist destination on North Carolina's Outer Banks. In order to help others replicate Watermark's success and to help empower women and minorities, she created the Northeastern Education and Development Corp., Watermark's nonprofit training and economic development arm. In 1994, Ms. McKecuen received a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant," a prestigious award given annually to no more than 40 individuals who show exceptional merit and promise for continued and enhanced creative work.

1991
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1991 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Emyl Jenkins, Carey Stacy, Dottie Martin, Gov. Jim Martin, Gloria Scott, Bertha "B" Holt.

Name	Hometown
Bertha "B" Holt	Burlington
Emyl Jenkins	Raleigh
Dorothy "Dottie" McAulay Martin	Charlotte
Gloria Dean Randle Scott	Greensboro
Carey Stacy	Raleigh

Bertha "B" Merrill Holt of Burlington was appointed to the N.C. House of Representatives in 1975 and won re-election until her 1994 retirement. Representing the citizens of Alamance, Rockingham and northeast Stokes counties, she sponsored legislation covering a wide range of subject matter. In 1982 she became the first woman appointed to the Joint Commission on Governmental Operations and served several terms as chairman of the House Appropriations Expansion Budget Committee on Justice and Public Safety. She was active in the Southern Legislative Conference and the Council of State Governments. A law school graduate, Ms. Holt has been a leader in community, church, civic and political affairs and was the first woman to serve as chairman of the Social Services Board of Alamance County and to hold several local and diocesan positions in the Episcopal church.

Emyl Jenkins of Raleigh is the founder and president of an appraisal firm whose clients include major museums, insurance companies, banks, corporations, universities and government agencies including the Internal Revenue Service. She was the first woman to attain senior member status in any appraisal discipline in North Carolina. Through books, articles, nationally syndicated newspaper columns, television and radio appearances, speeches and seminars, she has shared her knowledge of the cultural, historical and monetary value of the decorative arts. Colonial Williamsburg, Tryon Palace, the Shaker Museum and Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts have provided the backdrop for a few of her many museum lectures. Her more than 300 articles have appeared in a range of publications from the American Bar Association Journal to Southern Accents.

Dorothy "Dottie" McAulay Martin has worn a variety of career hats, including kindergarten teacher and successful real estate agent. But her most well-known "career" has been that of wife to James G. Martin, former U.S. congressman and two-term governor. As North Carolina's first lady, Mrs. Martin spent much of her time promoting programs for child safety and well-being. She sponsored Child Safety Days across North Carolina to promote prevention of child abduction. Focusing on the prevention of child abuse and neglect as well as treatment services for victims, she was active chairperson of the Governor's Commission on Child Victimization that produced 30 policy and legislative recommendations based on their findings. In addition, she chaired the Governor's Commission for the Family and served on the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse among Children and Youth.

Gloria Randle Scott, Ph.D., of Greensboro has distinguished herself as a leader in higher education and as an advocate of women's issues. The Houston, Texas native is the twelfth president of Greensboro's Bennett College, a historically black college for women which houses a Women's Leadership Institute. Most notably, Dr. Scott serves as only the second female chief administrator of the college. Before going to Bennett, she held teaching and administrative positions at several colleges and universities and also served as national president of Girl Scouts of the USA in the mid-1970s. She was a presidential appointee to several national commissions and chaired the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee for the United Negro College Fund. Dr. Scott was named a "Ladies Home Journal" Woman of the Year in 1977 and received the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Thanks Badge.

Carey Stacy has combined the worlds of education and business. Known for the leadership and inspiration she has brought to small business owners, especially women, she has served as president of the National Association of Women Business Owners and organized the Soviet Association of Women Business Owners in Moscow in 1990. She participated in the first U.S. all-female/all-services trade mission and has held presidential appointments in the areas of exports and commerce. A teacher at all levels from elementary to university, she created the first program in the United States where a school system contracts out its teaching hours to a business. Her company, which provides foreign language teachers and supervises and writes curricula, has been showcased as a model of an innovative public/private partnership. She has made a national and international impact on foreign language education.

1992
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1992 Distinguished Women Recipient Judith Abbott with Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner.

Maya Angelou was unable to attend the ceremony. The photo shown here is used with her permission.

1992 Distinguished Women Recipient Marjorie Strawn with Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner.

1992 Distinguished Women Recipient Frances R. Schneider with Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner.

1992 Distinguished Women Recipient Lynn Sadler with Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner.

1992 Distinguished Women Recipient Marie Colton with Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner.

Name	Category	Hometown
Judith Abbott	Public Service	Camden
Maya Angelou	The Arts	Winston-Salem
Marie W. Colton	Government	Asheville
Lynn Veach Sadler	Education	Sanford
Frances Schneider	Humanities	Hendersonville
Marjorie Oaks Strawn	Business	Lenoir

NOTE: Award categories were documented from 1992 forward.

Maya Angelou of Winston-Salem is a poet, historian, author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director. She became San Francisco's first black woman conductor. She lectures throughout the United States and abroad and is a Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University. She has published numerous best-selling books and magazine articles earning her Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award nominations. She wrote and delivered a poem, "On the Pulse of Morning," at the 1993 presidential inauguration. Her accolades include the prestigious Chubb Fellowship Award from Yale University, the Tony Award nomination for performance in "Look Away," the Ladies' Home Journal Award for "Woman of the Year in Communication" and the "Top 100 Most Influential Women," and Emmy Award nominations for her acting in "Roots" and her screenplay "Georgia." Ms. Angelou has been hailed as "a remarkable Renaissance woman."

Marie Watters Colton of Asheville was regarded as a champion of issues for children and families when she served as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1979 to 1994. She was instrumental in the passage of legislation ensuring care for the elderly and the children of North Carolina. In 1991 she became the first woman to be elected as speaker pro tempore. Aside from her legislative duties, Ms. Colton has served as director of the Vagabond School of Drama, the Brevard Music Center, the North Carolina Historic Preservation Foundation, and the University of North Carolina General Alumni Association.

Dr. Lynn Veach Sadler of Sanford is known as both a pioneer in and a spokesperson for the future of higher education. A seminar and conference leader, she has held teaching and/or administrative assignments at Methodist College, Bennett College, A&T State University and Agnes Scott College. She was a recipient of the Extraordinary Undergraduate Teaching Award at Drake University, where she taught English. Dr. Sadler is author of numerous books and articles. Her chief interests include civil rights, women's issues, and developing new approaches to dealing with existing problems the nation faces in education. Dr. Sadler runs the Human Technology Interface press in Sanford. She has five scholarly books. Her story, "The Red Burden," won the North Carolina Network Award for Fiction in 1992.

Frances Schneider of Hendersonville, a nurse during World War II, has a lifelong history of serving others. A community volunteer, she spearheaded the establishment of a health clinic and day care center for migrant workers. This center is now known as the Blue Ridge Community Health Center, open year round and available to all residents in need. She established the Henderson County Dispute Settlement Center, a program that offers parties in a dispute the chance to settle their claim without going to court, and chaired the first two years of the governing board. Schneider has been president of the Welcome Wagon, a member of the League of Women Voters and a Red Cross volunteer. Ms. Schneider has earned the Governor's Award for Volunteerism, was named VFW Woman of the Year in 1988 and was recognized during Women's History Month in 1990.

Dr. Marjorie Oaks Strawn of Lenoir is the former director of the Caldwell County Health Department, where she developed home health services, primary care services, free health clinics and other services to help improve the quality of life for the people in Caldwell County. The N.C. Association of County Commissioners recognized her in 1977-78 as an outstanding health director. Beyond county lines, Dr. Strawn has served on the 19-county Appalachian Regional Commission and has helped to plan and implement a four-county landfill project. On the state level, she worked to introduce a fluoridation program in rural county schools. Past president of the North Carolina Public Health Association, she has sat on the State Board of Sanitarian Examiners and has frequently advised state health and human services officials. She has served as a member of the Lenoir City Council, and is a past president of the Lenoir Woman's Club.

Judith Steltzner Abbott of Camden has become a moving force for the well-being of sexually abused children and their families across the state. Her presentations on child sexual abuse have become a part of nursing programs and hospital emergency room staff training, and have been presented to law enforcement agencies, social services systems and members of the judiciary. When litigation developed from allegations of child sexual abuse at a day care center in a nearby area, Abbott worked seven days a week to provide counseling, guidance and support for children and parents. She has served on the Camden County Department of Social Services, N.C. Council on the Status of Women, Albemarle Hopeline Board of Directors, and the North Carolina Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Advisory Board.

1993
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1993 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Clara Boswell, Ruth Easterling, Gov. Jim Hunt, Elizabeth Darden Ward Cone, Janice Scarborough. (*Not pictured*: Martha Nell Hardy.)

Name	Category	Hometown
Clara Mason Boswell*	Education	Edenton
Elizabeth Darden Ward Cone	Volunteerism	Greensboro
Ruth Moss Easterling	Government	Charlotte
Martha Nell Hardy	The Arts	Chapel Hill
Janice S. Scarborough	Business	Asheboro

Clara Mason Boswell* spent her life motivating others to fulfill their potential through learning and leadership. Born in 1932, this eastern North Carolina native was recognized for her contributions to education. In 1966, she organized the Graduate Educational Diploma (GED) program at The College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, which over the years has enabled hundreds of women and men to enter better careers. Ms. Boswell's hard work was instrumental in the 1977 founding of the Edenton-Chowan Alternative School, of which she was named principal. Upon her retirement in 1991, Ms. Boswell had served as principal of three different schools in Chowan County -- and had been the school system's only female principal. She served two terms as a Chowan County commissioner, and was an active member and leader of community and church activities.

Elizabeth Darden Ward Cone has been described as the most dedicated, unselfish and caring community servant in North Carolina. A volunteer without equal, Ms. Cone has demonstrated a long-time commitment to the projects she supports such as downtown Greensboro revitalization, the United Arts Council, the Eastern Music Festival and the Old Greensborough Preservation Society. Ms. Cone's vision and natural leadership ability transformed these organizations into dynamic, stable institutions. She was the first woman president of the United Arts Council Board of Directors, as well as the first woman to serve as chairwoman of the Greater Greensboro Merchants Association and Credit Bureau. Her contributions to the arts, government, education, business, politics and social responsibility have been significant, and have led to numerous leadership awards.

Ruth Moss Easterling is currently serving her 12th term as a representative in the North Carolina House of Representatives. A native of Gaffney, S.C., Rep. Easterling has lived in Charlotte for more than 50 years. Recognized for her contributions to government, she has posted an impressive record of support for women's and children's issues during her political career, which spans 28 years. Her work in the General Assembly has helped secure funding for domestic violence centers, day care, rape crisis assistance and all facets of cultural resources. As president of the N.C. Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in the early 1960s, she was instrumental in establishing in 1963 the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, now named the North Carolina Council for Women. Rep. Easterling was a founding member of the N.C. Women's Political Caucus and the Charlotte Caucus.

Martha Nell Hardy -- actor, director, producer and educator -- has been one of North Carolina's leading actresses and theater educators since receiving a master's degree in dramatic arts from UNC-Chapel Hill nearly 50 years ago. She has numerous acting credits, most notably more than 1,300 performances as the lead in the outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" in Cherokee. Ms. Hardy is the founder of the touring Carolina Regional Theatre, which was established in 1972 to bring high-quality theater to citizens statewide and to provide professional employment for North Carolina theater artists. Her contributions to the arts in North Carolina include a 25-year faculty appointment at UNC-Chapel Hill in the department of speech communication, where she taught performance studies and specialized in oral interpretation. She headed the department from 1983-1988.

Janice S. Scarborough of Asheboro has dedicated herself to ensuring the people of Randolph and surrounding counties have access to human services programs. More than 20 years ago, Ms. Scarborough helped launch what is now known as Regional Consolidated Services, a private nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the needs and problems of virtually every age group in the community. Because of her vision, Randolph County now has employment and training programs, home care programs and a Head Start program. Ms. Scarborough also spearheaded the formation of a service delivery area centered around Randolph County, giving the small counties involved more clout in attempts to win government contracts. The recipient of numerous business and leadership awards, she is a longtime member of the N.C. Employment and Training Association and a member of the N.C. Apprenticeship Council.

1994
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1994 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Annie Brown Kennedy, Joyce Dugan, Elizabeth Buford, Gov. Jim Hunt, Martha Guy, Mable Claire Maddrey, Mary Seymour.

Name	Category	Hometown
Elizabeth Farrior Buford	The Arts	Raleigh
Joyce Dugan	Education	Cherokee
Martha Guy	Business/Professions	Newland
Annie Brown Kennedy	Government	Winston-Salem
Mabel Claire Maddrey	Volunteerism	Raleigh
Mary Powell Seymour*	Public Service	Greensboro

Elizabeth Farrior Buford has been recognized statewide for her support of historic preservation, especially in Raleigh's Historic Oakwood. Deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, this longtime public servant was instrumental in bringing the American Dance Festival to North Carolina, and helped to establish the Association for the American Dance Festival, for which she has served as president. She has also served as a member of the American Dance Festival's national board. Ms. Buford has been president of the Women's Forum of North Carolina and served on numerous boards which further the arts, including the Raleigh Fine Arts Society, the national Victorian Society, the Ballet Theatre Company of Raleigh, the Wake County Arts Council and the DoubleTake Documentary Film Festival. Ms. Buford also volunteers with Artsplosure of Raleigh, the Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood and is a docent at the Executive Mansion.

Joyce Dugan spent 20 years in the Cherokee Central School system as teacher, federal programs director and superintendent. She was the primary motivating force that provided the technical guidance when the Cherokee School System moved out from under the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be placed under the direct authority of the local school board. Her programs as an educator have earned national recognition. She was selected to be a member of the White House Conference on Indian Education in 1992, and co-chairs Gov. Jim Hunt's "Clean N.C. 2000" initiative. She is also a member of the N.C. Economic Development Board. Ms. Dugan was born and attended school on the Qualla Boundary. In 1995, she was elected as the first female principal chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee nation, a position she retained until just recently.

Martha Guy, president of the Avery County Bank, became the first woman to serve on the executive committee of the North Carolina Banking Association in 1958 and was the first woman elected treasurer of the Independent Bankers Association of America in 1963. In 1992 the Avery County Bank was identified as the most profitable small bank in the Carolinas and the third most profitable in the country. Founded in 1913 by her father, it was the only bank serving the people of Avery County for many years. Throughout her life, Ms. Guy has devoted as much time to volunteer service as to her vocation; she serves on the UNC Board of Visitors, and on many community boards, including Crossnore School, Montreat College and the N.C. Community Foundation.

Annie Brown Kennedy was the first African-American woman elected to the N.C. House of Representatives. As a legislator, she was especially interested in the areas of women, minorities and children. Rep. Kennedy served on the state's first Council on the Status of Women Board, setting policies to institute the council as a viable state entity serving women. She is a charter member of the Forsyth County Council on the Status of Women, establishing it as the first nonprofit council in the state. A graduate of Howard University Law School, she was the first female to serve as president of the Forsyth County Bar Association. She was an organizing member of the Democratic Women of Forsyth County, a delegate to several county, state, district and national Democratic conventions, and the first African-American female to become a presidential elector in North Carolina.

Mabel Claire Maddrey has distinguished herself in contributions to Meredith College and the Baptist church, the Federation of Women's Clubs and the Democratic Party. As president of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, she led the effort to raise $20,000 for scholarship funds and helped to organize 31 new clubs. As president of the Woman's Club of Raleigh in the early 1970s, she was actively involved in retiring the indebtedness on the then recently constructed clubhouse, and in furnishing and equipping it so it might serve as a civic and social center for the community. She was the first woman elected to the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, one of the first two women named to the board of trustees of Meredith College, and one of the first two women in North Carolina to be appointed state women's campaign manager by a gubernatorial candidate.

Mary Powell Seymour's* efforts to assist North Carolina's displaced homemakers earned her a special recognition. During the 1993 session of the General Assembly, Sen. Seymour introduced a bill calling for funds to establish pilot centers for displaced homemakers. Some $375,000 was appropriated to the N.C. Council for Women for establishment of the centers, which have since served thousands of individuals. She was instrumental in presenting legislation to make stalking women and children a criminal offense, and worked to establish the Clara House in Greensboro, a center for battered women and children. In addition to her work as a senator, Sen. Seymour earlier served eight years in the N.C. House of Representatives. Prior to her work in the General Assembly, she spent ten years on the Greensboro City Council, where she became the first woman to serve as mayor pro-tem.

1995
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1995 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Gov. Jim Hunt, Barbara Allen, Jeanette Hyde, Norma Sermon-Boyd, Margaret Harper, Mollie Blankenship, Eva Clayton.

Name	Category	Hometown
Barbara K. Allen	Business/Professions	Raleigh
Mollie Gloyne Blankenship	The Arts	Cherokee
Eva Clayton	Government	Littleton
Margaret Taylor Harper	Volunteerism	Southport
Jeanette Hyde	Public Service	Raleigh
Norma Sermon-Boyd	Education	Pollocksville

Barbara K. Allen is respected throughout the business circles of the Triangle and North Carolina as one of the area's most effective business and professional leaders, and has paved the way for many other women in the corporate environment. Ms. Allen was the first woman supervisor and the first woman department head at Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L). She began her work there as a customer service clerk and worked her way up to manager of the Corporate Community Relations Department, where she represented the corporation on the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Allen has been involved in many civic and cultural groups, including the Women's Forum of North Carolina, N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry and the UNC Public Television Foundation Board. Ms. Allen currently serves as the chairman of the state Democratic Party, and sings with the JJ Singers.

Mollie Gloyne Blankenship was the first woman to be elected to a tribal position among the Cherokee. As a result of her advocacy on behalf of the arts, many women of the Cherokee community have received national recognition for their work. She has been active in the arts community of western North Carolina, and sits on the Qualla Arts and Crafts Board of Directors. She has also served on the Folklife Panel of the N.C. Arts Council, and is a member of the Southern Federation of Arts. Following her advice, the Folklife Heritage Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award was created by the N.C. Arts Council. Ms. Blankenship has dedicated her life to keeping the tradition of her people alive and in focus to the state, the nation and countries worldwide.

Eva McPherson Clayton is the first African-American woman to represent North Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently serving her fourth term. The first woman elected as president of the Democratic Freshman Class, she co-authored legislation that saved the housing program. Rep. Clayton began her career in government as a member of the Warren County Board of Commissioners, serving as chairperson for eight years, and in her final year was named Outstanding North Carolina County Commissioner by her peers. Rep. Clayton has received numerous awards for legislation she has introduced and supported in the areas of agriculture and rural economic development, and is a strong advocate for education, vocational training, rural health and the minimum wage. She has served on numerous local, state and national boards.

Margaret Taylor Harper has made a lifetime out of volunteerism. She is a charter member of the N.C. Press Women, North Carolinians for Better Libraries and the North Carolina Council of Women's Organizations. While serving as president of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, she led a drive that resulted in increased awareness of the need to use safety belts while driving. In 1968, Ms. Harper became the first woman in North Carolina to seek the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, and although she was defeated in the primaries, many believe that her example encouraged women to become more involved in local government. Her most lasting local effort has been the development of the Brunswick County Library system, with which she has been involved since the 1950s. She has been president of N.C. Press Women and a member of the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees. She has worked in support of numerous community improvement measures, serving on many boards and chairing many committees.

Norma Sermon-Boyd is superintendent of the Jones County Schools. For more than 30 years, she has been a teacher, counselor, central office supervisor and principal. Ms. Sermon-Boyd completed her doctorate in education at Nova University. Recognized for her sound logic, innovative planning and dynamic leadership, she has served on state and regional committees that have set standards and written policy for the Department of Public Instruction, has been a catalyst for the county's participation in Gov. Jim Hunt's Smart Start program, and has offered educational expertise on several legislative committees.

Jeanette Hyde has been recognized for more than three decades for her efforts on behalf of civic, charitable, academic and political affairs in North Carolina. The first North Carolina woman appointed to an ambassadorship, Ms. Hyde served as ambassador to the seven eastern Caribbean countries of Barbados, Dominica, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Antigua, Grenada and St. Kitts-Nevis from 1994-1998. An active fundraiser for many causes, she has worked to raise money for the N.C. Museum of History and has been a patron of the arts as well. She currently serves on the Wake Forest University Board of Trustees, the Western Carolina University Board of Trustees, the Triangle World Affairs Council and the N.C. Community Foundation. The North Carolina native is also a member of the boards of Wake County Communities and Schools, the Methodist Home for Children and the J.C. Raulston Arboretum of N.C. State University. Along with numerous other awards, in 1996 she was presented with the United States Coast Guard's highest civilian award for public service for her treaty work in the area of drug trafficking interdiction.

1996
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1996 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Betty McCain, Norma Price, Peggy Kirk Bell, Donna Petit, Ann Hassinger Smith, Nancy Weaver Emerson, Ellen Ironside, Gov. Jim Hunt and CFW Board Chair Jane Carver.

Name	Category	Hometown
Peggy Kirk Bell	Physical Fitness/Recreation	Southern Pines
Nancy Weaver Emerson	Business/Professions	Graham
Ellen Mentzer Ironside	Education	Chapel Hill
Betty Ray McCain	Public Service	Wilson
Donna J. Petit	Government	Midway Park
Norma Price	Volunteerism	Asheville
Ann Hassinger Smith	The Arts	Raleigh

Peggy Kirk Bell is one of America's most admired and most honored golf celebrities. The recipient of a host of titles and honors testifying to her performance excellence as a teacher and player of golf, Ms. Bell was named by *Golf Digest* as one of the five most influential women in golf and one of the six best women instructors in the United States. She has been selected to the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame and the Ohio Golf Hall of Fame. Ms. Bell was a charter member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), a member of the 1950 Curtis Cup Team and the 1951 WeatherVane Team (the first LPGA golf team), and has been champion of several amateur tournaments. She has conducted numerous clinics for nonprofit organizations, and her Pine Needles resort facility in Southern Pines played host to the 1996 U.S. Women's Open Championship.

Nancy Weaver Emerson began her professional life in banking and real estate, achieving recognition and rewards for her innovation, creativity and personal success. Her personal experience with breast cancer led her to the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she translated her enthusiasm into support for the center's programs. Under Ms. Emerson's guidance, the Cancer Center Citizens Advisory Board has grown into a statewide organization of more than 100 members that advises the Cancer Center leadership, raises funds, educates communities on the importance of fighting cancer and works with elected officials to advocate adequate federal support for cancer research. Ms. Emerson works as assistant director and director of major projects at the Cancer Center, and a lectureship at Duke University Medical Center was established in her honor in 1997. She frequently speaks at events about her personal experience with cancer, and has spoken before Congress and to the President's Cancer Panel in 1996.

Ellen Mentzer Ironside is an educational leader and administrator in the field of adult and continuing education. Her career evolved from volunteer activities focusing on leadership development for women, including active involvement in the League of Women Voters, the Governor's Conference on Leadership Development for Women and the North Carolina Council of Women's Organizations. At the age of 56, she earned her Ph.D. in adult and higher education and was appointed dean of continuing education at Meredith College that same year. She provided a decade of imaginative leadership for campus-based adult learning, and made her most significant impact with the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education where she was elected to the presidency in 1993 -- the first woman from North Carolina to hold this post and the first retiree.

Betty Ray McCain has been an advocate for women throughout her career as a volunteer and public servant. She was the first woman to serve as state chairperson of the Democratic Party and succeeded in passing the Equal Division Rules ensuring equal representation of men and women as delegates to all conventions and committees at both state and national levels. Ms. McCain was the first woman appointed to the Advisory Budget Commission and was on the panel that assured women vendors had equal opportunity to conduct business with the state and that female state employees were treated equally. Serving as the secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources since 1993, she travels North Carolina promoting the state's cultural history, education, health care and many other causes. A member of numerous civic, political and cultural organizations, Ms. McCain is a champion for women, and in 1996 was named one of the most powerful women in the Triangle by the *Triangle Business Journal.*

Donna J. Petit proves daily that women patriots have a vital role in today's Marine Corps. In 1995 she was selected to take over the Group Logistics Department, where her duties as the hazardous material disposal coordinator were critical to protecting the local environment from contamination and ensuring command compliance with local, state and federal regulations. Her thorough and diligent teaching and inspection techniques kept the group's vast program operating at the highest levels of competency. She is a superbly qualified and highly respected Marine officer, and was the first female to command in the 8th Motor Transport Battalion, as well as the first female officer assigned to Marine Security Guard Battalion. She works after hours with young enlisted female Marines to help prepare them mentally and physically for the rigors of Officers' Boot Camp.

Norma T. Price has been recognized for her outstanding service and leadership skills by being elected president of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, a position that she served in the early 1990s. She has been recognized for her efforts within her community as well, receiving the Asheville-Buncombe Woman of the Year Award in 1992. Known for her dedication to public service, she was elected to seven straight terms on the Asheville City Council, serving one term as mayor pro tempore. As a member of the Women's Coalition, she helped to establish annual regional meetings bringing together citizens and agencies to initiate a program to monitor the courts. She also helped found Riverlink, a group devoted to improving the quality of the French Broad River. Ms. Price currently serves on the Advisory Commission to the N.C. Museum of Natural Science and is president elect of the Etheridge Woman's Club.

Ann Hassinger Smith began her career as a volunteer for the arts at the local level. As a member of the Raleigh Fine Arts Society, she presented its Color and Light Program in Wake County for many years. She chaired the Raleigh First Night steering committee for its first three years and has served on the Board of the International Alliance for First Night Celebrations. Ms. Smith's reputation for creativity, organization and hard work has resulted in recognition from her community and her state. She has been the recipient of the Raleigh Arts Commission's Medal of Arts Award, the YWCA's Academy of Women Arts Award and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Ms. Smith has made major contributions to the state's art and natural science museums, and her innovative projects continue to serve the people of North Carolina.

1997
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1997 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Leaner Alston, Sarah Elizabeth Parker, Honey Kirschbaum, Elaine F. Marshall, Julianne Still Thrift, Darleen McEvoy Johns, Eve Ragland Williamson, Janice Faulkner and Gov. Jim Hunt.

Name	Category	Hometown
Leaner Alston	Volunteerism	Lenoir
Janice Hardison Faulkner	Public Service	Greenville
Darleen McEvoy Johns	Business	Raleigh
Honey Kirschbaum*	Physical Fitness/Recreation	Raleigh
Elaine F. Marshall	Government	Buies Creek
Sarah Elizabeth Parker	Professions	Charlotte
Julianne Still Thrift	Education	Winston-Salem
Eve Ragland Williamson	The Arts	Raleigh

Leaner Alston is an ordained minister, retired from health services after 35 years. She has served the community by organizing and volunteering at free health clinics, feeding the homeless, providing transportation to those in need, providing clothes and assisting with securing legal services for the poor. For taking part in Christmas Mail Call for the United States Armed Forces in 1989, Ms. Alston was presented with a certificate of merit in recognition of outstanding patriotism. She teaches food preparation to young parents, counsels teenagers and provides culturally educational trips for at-risk youth. Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute recognized her for assistance in promoting adult basic education. She was a founder of the Dulatown 4-H Club, and serves as a hospice volunteer in Caldwell County. Encouraging others by example, Ms. Alston works tirelessly to help those in need.

Janice Hardison Faulkner, Commissioner of the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, is a former secretary of revenue and was the first woman to serve on the 10-member Council of State when she was sworn in as North Carolina's Secretary of State in 1996. Ms. Faulkner has a record of public service in politics, cultural arts and Girl Scouting. Her 37-year tenure at East Carolina University began in 1957 when she joined the English faculty. She became the school's first female director of alumni affairs and was among the first women to hold high-level administrative posts at ECU. Ms. Faulkner has continued to support ECU as a member of the University Foundation and chair of the university's Board of Visitors. Ms. Faulkner's career also included a stint as the first female executive director of the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Eve Ragland Williamson has worked tirelessly on countless committees and civic organizations to further the causes of historic preservation, historic education and children. She currently serves as executive director of the N.C. Museum of History Associates, the largest group of its kind in the nation. She has been directly involved in and responsible for remarkable achievements in preserving our state's history as a professional in historic preservation since 1969. One of this Raleigh native's crowning achievements was her successful and tireless lobbying of the N.C. General Assembly to allocate funds for a new North Carolina Museum of History building which opened in 1994. Ms. Williamson was instrumental in the original organization of the Mordecai Square Historical Society, which has served as the model for many historic area developments throughout the state, and she has built a national model for state history museum support organizations.

Darleen McEvoy Johns of Raleigh, owner and president of Alphanumeric Systems Inc., approaches business with focus, vision and leadership. Over a 20-year period, she has led her company from three to more than 125 employees, and her business has been nationally recognized as one of the fastest-growing and most respected technology companies in the United States. As technology has changed, she has never lost her vision to provide the business community with current office automation technology and techniques. Ms. Johns provides a workplace for her employees which facilitates personal and professional growth, motivates women to succeed and serves as a mentor to her employees. She was inducted into the YWCA Academy of Women in 1998, and was named a Tar Heel of the Week in Raleigh's *The News & Observer* in 1999.

Honey Kirschbaum* began a personal trainer business in the late 1980s, training young people to perform well in sports by incorporating nutrition, fitness and physical conditioning. She volunteered to initiate, develop and sustain an endurance program for the Wake County Special Olympics in 1991. Ms. Kirschbaum coached the Special Olympians and taught her non-disabled athletes how to run the program. During the county's first entry into the state meet in 1992, she traveled with the team, housed them in hotels and managed their participation in the event. The following year, Wheelchair Basketball players first caught her attention -- though the specialty chair costs proved to be prohibitive. To alleviate some of the expenses, the N.C. Wheelchair Association was established to raise money for equipment and travel.

Elaine F. Marshall of Buies Creek made history in 1996 when she became the first woman ever to be elected to statewide office when she won the post of Secretary of State. Ms. Marshall became active in politics in the 1970s, and in 1992 earned the reputation as an outstanding public speaker during her tenure in the North Carolina Senate. She worked as a teacher, business owner and private attorney prior to entering public service, and continues to serve on several major boards and commissions. In 1998, the N.C. Federation of Business and Professional Women awarded her its "State Career Woman of the Year" title, and she recently received the top honor from the N.C. Electronics and Information Technology Association for Leadership in Technology in the Nonprofit/Government Sector.

Sarah Elizabeth Parker of Charlotte has established a record as a capable, fair-minded, hardworking judge committed to equal justice under the law regardless of a person's status. Ms. Parker was elected associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina in 1992, following a seven-year tenure as a judge on the N.C. Court of Appeals. She is currently the only woman serving on the Supreme Court of North Carolina. She received her juris doctorate from UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law in 1969, where she was a member of the North Carolina Law Review. She was a Peace Corps volunteer at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, from 1964 to 1966, where she taught English as a foreign language. She was a private practice attorney in Charlotte from 1969 to 1984 prior to becoming an appellate judge. Judge Parker has served on many civic, academic and political organizations including the YWCA, the League of Women Voters and the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Visitors.

Julianne Still Thrift is the first woman in the history of Salem Academy and College to serve as its president, a post she holds to this day. Ms. Thrift's influence on higher education stretches far beyond this campus, however. She spent two years as president of the Women's College Coalition, and was co-chair of Gov. Jim Hunt's Commission for a Competitive North Carolina, a committee of state leaders who formed a 20-year plan for improving areas such as child care, transportation and education. She has also chaired a Piedmont Triad Partnership Committee that sets goals for education in the cities of Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point. Ms. Thrift has served on the executive committee of Old Salem Inc., the board of trustees of The Summit School and the board of directors of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce.

1998
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1998 Distinguished Women Recipients (l-r) Dorothy Austell, Suzanne Reynolds, Barbara D. Matula, Gov. Jim Hunt, Nora Lynn Finch, Carolyn Ruth Black Ferree, Laura Tibbie Roberts and Patricia Shore Clark. (*Not pictured:* MariJo Moore.)

Name	Category	Hometown
Dorothy B. Austell	Business	Raleigh
Patricia Shore Clark	Public Service	Winston-Salem
Carolyn Ruth Black Ferree	Professions	Winston-Salem
Nora Lynn Finch	Physical Fitness/Recreation	Raleigh
Barbara D. Matula	Government	Raleigh
MariJo Moore	The Arts	Candler
Suzanne Reynolds	Education	Winston-Salem
Laura Tibbie Roberts	Volunteerism	Morehead City

MariJo Moore of Candler is an author/artist/poet/journalist of Eastern Cherokee, Irish and Dutch descent. The recipient of several literary awards, her writings have appeared in publications such as *National Geographic*, *Indian Artist* and the *North Carolina Literary Review*. Ms. Moore has served on the board of the North Carolina Writers' Network and on the Speakers' Bureau for the North Carolina Humanities Council. She was twice chairperson for the North Carolina Thomas Wolfe Fiction Contest, and was also project director for the 1997 North Carolina Indian Literary Heritage Conference. Ms. Moore resides in the mountains of western North Carolina, where she writes weekly commentaries on American Indian issues for various newspapers, and is working on a novel, collection of short stories and a collection of essays. She travels widely to present lectures and literary readings, and teaches workshops on American Indian spirituality and writing.

Dorothy B. Austell of Raleigh has been recognized in North Carolina and across the nation for her excellence in the business community and her high ethical standards. She joined the Pilot Life Insurance Company (now Jefferson Pilot Financial) in 1956, where she became the first woman to win membership in the Jefferson Pilot Financial Hall of Fame. She was the first woman in the United States to lead an insurance company in sales, as well as the first woman elected to the board of trustees of the National Association of Life Underwriters. Her service to the community includes a tenure as president of the Raleigh YWCA from 1964 to 1966, where she led the board to become the first YWCA in the country to integrate. Along with service in many other organizations, Ms. Austell served during World War II in the intelligence division of the U.S. Army Air Force.

Suzanne Reynolds, professor of law at Wake Forest University School of Law, was instrumental in establishing Forsyth County's Domestic Violence Advocacy Center. This project matches law students with attorneys who provide legal representation to women who are abused, battered or assaulted. This collaborative effort allows students to gain exposure in this area of the law while serving the community. Professor Reynolds has underlined her commitment to bettering the position of women in the state by offering her knowledge and understanding of issues by speaking to a variety of legislative study commissions focusing on family law issues. She also has served as a speaker at the Governor's Task Force on the Family.

Barbara D. Matula has more than 30 years of government experience, with more than two decades of service to the people of North Carolina. As North Carolina's Medicaid director for 17 years, she has done more than any other individual to mold the state's medical assistance program for needy North Carolinians, which is recognized as a national leader. For over nine years she chaired the National Academy for State Health Policy, which helped shape the state's agenda for health care reform. She is currently the director of health care programs for the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation. During her career in public service she chaired national task forces for the American Public Welfare Association on access to health care for the uninsured and on long-term reform. She has also served on the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality. Ms. Matula serves on North Carolina's State Health Coordinating Council and is a member of the N.C. Institute of Medicine.

Nora Lynn Finch, senior associate director of athletics at N.C. State University, is committed to making North Carolina a better place to live and work. She served as the first chairperson for the NCAA Women's Basketball Committee, which developed the NCAA Tournament and Final Four for women. For seven years she was heavily involved in laying the foundation for the selection and seeding process for the tournament. She was also involved in the negotiation with CBS for televising the championship game. Ms. Finch was the first woman to be named president of the U.S. Collegiate Sports Council. She served as NCSU's liaison for the 1999 Special Olympics World Games, co-chaired 1997's Breast Cancer Golf Festival at Pine Needles Resort and chaired the U.S. Women's Open Committee in 1996.

Carolyn Ruth Black Ferree has established herself as one of the premier oncologists at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem. A native of Liberty, Dr. Ferree graduated from UNC-Greensboro with a degree in biology, and received her M.D. from the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. She completed an internship in internal medicine and a residency in radiation therapy at North Carolina Baptist Hospital. Dr. Ferree has served on numerous university and hospital committees, and is a member of numerous professional organizations where she has held various leadership positions. She was only the third woman in the 149-year history of the N.C. Medical Society to serve as the organization's president.

Laura Tibbie Roberts of Morehead City is a model of volunteerism in North Carolina. In 1997 she celebrated her 83rd birthday in flight to Palestine to participate in a two-week United Methodist Volunteer in Mission work team. An active member of the United Methodist Church, she serves on the board of trustees for the United Methodist Children's Home, the General Board of Global Ministries and has served as president of the N.C. Conference of United Methodist Women. Ms. Roberts is a founding member of the Carteret County Women's Resource Center and a charter member of the Carteret County League of Women Voters. She serves on a committee of the Women's Forum of North Carolina working to get more women appointed to state boards and commissions, and is a member of the N.C. Council of Churches Committee for Equal Rights. Last year she attended the China-U.S. Conference on Women's Issues in China, which included a visit to a new farm settlement. Ms. Roberts also volunteers with Meals on Wheels.

Patricia Shore Clark of Winston-Salem served as U.S. Senator Sam Ervin's chief of staff until his retirement, and has also served as director of Gov. Jim Hunt's North Carolina office in Washington, D.C. During her time in the nation's capital, she was one of a group of five women who established the organization Women Executives in State Government, for which she assisted in directing fundraising efforts. Ms. Clark currently serves as director of state and local government relations for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem. She serves on various boards and commissions, including the UNC-Greensboro Board of Trustees, the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and the International Women's Forum. Her fundraising skills have been instrumental to many organizations, including 1998's Southern Women in Public Service Conference and the Piedmont Triad Professional Women's Development Council.

1999
Distinguished Women Award Recipients

1999 Distinguished Women Recipients *Top row* (l-r) Carolyn Hunt, Jan Dempster, Jan Karon, JoAnne Sanford. *Bottom row* (l-r) Mary Lou Jones, Olga Jones, Elaine Marshall (a 1997 winner who presented the awards in the absence of the governor), Hope Williams, Sen. Beverly Perdue. (*Not pictured:* Jan Parker who passed away a week after receiving the award.)

Name	Category	Hometown
Jan Dempster	Business	Wake Forest
Carolyn Hunt	Volunteerism	Raleigh
Mary Lou Jones	Physical Fitness/Recreation	Sanford
Olga Jones	Professions	Oak City
Janice Karon	The Arts	Blowing Rock
Lisa Jan Parker*	Public Service	Robersonville
Beverly Eaves Perdue	Jean Nelson Award	New Bern
JoAnne Sanford	Government	Raleigh
A. Hope Williams	Education	Raleigh

Janice Karon, a Blowing Rock resident and native of Lenoir, is the author of five best-selling works of adult fiction, The Mitford Series, as well as two children's books. A prominent chain of national bookstores awarded the Mitford novels its "Best Fiction of the Year " award for four consecutive years, an honor no author had ever received before. Ms. Karon's works seek to demonstrate and preserve traditional cultural values. She fills her schedule with lectures and talks at churches, universities, women's clubs, libraries and literary organizations, and has appeared as a guest speaker for the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation. Ms. Karon has also recently developed a foundation to help meet the needs of physically, emotionally and economically disadvantaged children.

Jan Dempster of Wake Forest is director of public affairs and corporate communications for Sprint's regional office that supports local telephone operations in the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia. Through her leadership and dedication to the importance of corporate giving, she has been the key factor in securing major corporate funding for countless events and nonprofit organizations. In 1998, she co-chaired the N.C. Child Advocacy Institute's major fundraiser and served on the host committee for the national Southern Women in Public Service Conference. She has been involved through her work at Sprint with the 1999 U.S. Men's Open at Pinehurst, the 1999 Special Olympics World Games, the upcoming 2001 U.S. Women's Open and the 1996 U.S. Women's Open, where as chair of the advisory committee helped raise the largest amount on record -- $400,000 -- for the prevention and detection of breast cancer in North Carolina.

Dr. A. Hope Williams presides over the N.C. Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, which represents 36 private colleges and universities in North Carolina. Last July the Raleigh resident became the chair of the National Association of Independent College and University State Executives. The chief executive officer for the N.C. Council of Governing Boards, she was the first woman to serve on the Governor's Education Cabinet and a founding board member of N.C. Equity. Dr. Williams' leadership has increased greatly the visibility and representation of independent higher education, and in 1997 and 1998, her executive ability brought about an increase of more than $18.2 million in student aid funds for North Carolina students attending the state's independent colleges and universities. Through close work with local, state and national education and government officials, Dr. Williams has increased the role independent colleges and universities play in educational decision making in North Carolina.

JoAnne Sanford of Raleigh, an attorney, became the first woman chair of the State Utilities Commission in 1997. From 1975 until her nomination and confirmation as a member of the commission in 1995, she worked with the N.C. Department of Justice in the Environmental Section. A native of Laurinburg, she is an expert in Indian law. During her career in state government, Ms. Sanford faced many controversial issues such as Indian gaming, changes in the health care industry and deregulation issues, uniformly addressing them in a professional, thorough and thoughtful manner, placing the interests of North Carolina citizens first. She has distinguished herself by her involvement with Women Executives in State Government, and volunteers with the Society for the Preservation of Historic Oakwood, Capital Area Preservation, and serves on the board of trustees at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Mary Lou Jones of Sanford has been a competitive tennis player for over 50 years and was ranked for several years as the No. 1 player in the South. From 1962 to 1998, Ms. Jones served in several capacities at St. Mary's College in Raleigh, including dean of students, chairman of the physical education department and tennis coach, where her team went undefeated for eight consecutive years. She received a Lifetime Sports Foundation Certificate of Achievement in 1968, was named to the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame in 1979 and received the Richard Stone Distinguished Service Award at St. Mary's in 1998. Since 1975, Miss Jones has been the director of the Mary Lou Jones Tennis Camp.

Olga M. Jones, a registered nurse for fifty years, directs the Martin County Alzheimer's Group Respite Program at the Senior Center in Williamston. The Oak City resident is a retired colonel of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, where she served for thirty years, including one stint as chief nurse at one U.S. Army Hospital. Since her Army retirement, she has worked as director of nursing at Robersonville's N.C. Community Hospital, been chairperson of the Martin County Hospice, and has worked with the American Red Cross and the Korean War Veteran's Association. She has also formed a partnership to manufacture apparel for populations needing special clothing, such as persons with disabilities.

Carolyn L. Hunt of Rock Ridge has been an icon of volunteerism and an inspiration to others. Her dedication to children's programs, education and humanitarian efforts began in Wilson County, where she was a member of the county school board. Currently her weekly volunteer efforts are based at Carnage Middle School and Hunter Elementary School in Raleigh, serving as a mentor to young children. A former elementary school teacher, she works with the Support Our Students and Communities in Schools programs and the Shepherd's Table in Raleigh. In 1979, she established the North Carolina Friendship Force, now called the North Carolina Center for International Understanding. Mrs. Hunt, married for 40 years to Gov. Jim Hunt, serves as the honorary chair of the N.C. Partnership for Children, which oversees the state's Smart Start program. In 1997 she received the Friend of Education Award from the Wake Education Partnership and the 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award. Her efforts toward children were also recognized in 1995 when she received the Jim & Carolyn Hunt Early Childhood Award.

Lisa Jan Parker* of Robersonville served as director of operations and earlier as director of boards and commission for the Governor's Office, where she worked to ensure that women were represented on boards and commissions and in the workplace in state government. As a former employee of Common Cause and the State Democratic Party, she assisted and empowered women across the state and improved the quality of political and financial reporting. Working quietly, often behind the scenes, she gave her all to ensure that women, minorities and young people would have an opportunity to learn to excel and serve, and encouraged young people to become involved in the political process. Her skills as a political fundraiser were without peer.

Sen. Beverly Perdue of New Bern received the first annual Jean H. Nelson Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions toward the betterment of women. During her five terms in the Senate and two terms in the state House of Representatives, Sen. Perdue has focused her attention on Smart Start and children, the elderly, the environment and women's issues. A co-chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, she sponsored and introduced legislation that brings in $20 of each divorce-filing fee for displaced homemaker programs across the state. She is a charter member of the Craven County Council on Women, and serves on the Craven, Carteret and Pamlico Chambers of Commerce, the Women's Forum and the UNC Board of Visitors. Sen. Perdue currently is in the midst of a campaign to succeed Dennis Wicker as lieutenant governor in 2001.

***Deceased**

Famous Firsts for N.C. Women

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Eldreta Melton Alexander was the first African-American woman to be admitted to Columbia University School of Law and became North Carolina's first African-American woman judge when she was elected state district court judge in 1968.

Laura Carpenter Bingham became the second woman and first alumna to hold the office of president at Peace College in 1998.

Amy Bradley was the first woman to supervise a public school system in 1869 (Wilmington, N.C.).

Frances Dority Bray became the first female commercial pilot to fly solo in North Carolina in 1935.

Linda Bray, an Army captain from Butner, directed an assault on Panamanian Defense Forces in the first officially recognized incident of a woman with leadership capacity directing U.S. troops under hostile fire.

Molly Broad became the first woman to be the president of the 16-campus University of North Carolina system in July 1997.

Juanita Martin Bryant was the first woman ever appointed by the governor to chair a state board in North Carolina. She was chair of the State Youth Advisory Board from 1970 to 1976. She was the first and only woman from North Carolina to serve as International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She served from 1982 to 1984.

Isabella Cannon was the first and only woman to serve as Raleigh mayor. She was inducted into the Seneca Wall of Fame in July 1998.

Mary Bayard Clarke, pen name Tenella, a Raleigh-born author, compiled the first collection of North Carolina poetry titled, *Wood-Notes Carolina Carols*.

Eva M. Clayton was the first African-American woman to represent the state of North Carolina in the U.S. Congress. She was elected president of the Democratic Freshman Class, the first woman ever to hold the office.

Lillian Exum Clement was the first woman to secure a law license. She was later elected to the North Carolina House (Buncombe County), thereby becoming the first female legislator in the South.

Virginia Dare was the first child born of English parents in the New World on Aug. 18, 1587.

Elizabeth Dole, born in Salisbury, N.C., was the first woman to make a credible run for the presidency. She ended her historic bid to become the nation's first female president in October 1999 due to fund-raising concerns. She also served as the Secretary of Transportation during the Reagan administration.

Sarah DeCrow was the first woman postmistress appointed after the adoption of the Constitution. She was made postmistress in Hertford in 1792.

Katie Dorsett was the first African-American woman to hold a Cabinet post appointed by the governor in North Carolina. She was also the first African-American woman elected to the Greensboro City Council, a position she held from 1983 to 1986. Between 1986 and 1992, she served on the Guilford County Board of Commissioners. In 1990, she was re-elected for a second four-year term and was slated to become the chairperson when the governor tapped her to serve as secretary of the Department of Administration.

Janice Faulkner was the first woman to serve on the Council of State, having been appointed by the governor to fill an unexpired term as secretary of state.

Maria Beale Fletcher of Asheville is the first and only North Carolinian to be selected as Miss America.

Marye Anne Fox, a chemist and member of the National Academy of Sciences, became the first woman to hold the position of chancellor at North Carolina State University in 1999. She has received numerous scientific awards including the Garvan Medal from the American Chemical Society. Also, in 1991, she became the first University of Texas chemist to hold the M. June and J. Virgil Waggoner Regents Chair in Chemistry, a position she retained until coming to NC State.

Mary Owen Graham was the first woman to serve as president at Peace College. She served from 1916-1924. She was also the first woman to serve as president of the North Carolina Education Association.

Margaret Taylor Harper of Southport was the first woman candidate for lieutenant governor in 1968.

Bernice Kelly Harris wrote the novel "*Purslane*" in 1939, which was the first novel about North Carolinians to win a literary award.

Maureen Hartford became the first woman president of Meredith College in July 1999.

Tabitha Anne Holton of Guilford County was the first woman lawyer admitted to the Supreme Court in 1878.

J. Marlene Hyatt became the first woman elected resident superior court judge in North Carolina in 1968.

Jeanette Hyde was the first North Carolina woman appointed to an ambassadorship. She served as ambassador to the seven eastern Caribbean countries of Barbados, Dominica, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Antigua, Grenada and St. Kitts-Nevis from 1994-1998.

Nannerl Overholser Keohane became the first woman president of Duke University in 1993. Prior to coming to Duke, Keohane was the president of Wellesley College where she led the largest fundraising drive in the history of Americans liberal arts colleges.

Betty Ann Knudsen was the first female chair of the Wake County Board of Commissioners.

Juanita Kreps was the first and only woman from North Carolina to serve as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. She served from 1977 until 1979. She has received the N.C. Public Service Award, the American Association of University Women's Achievement Award and was the first recipient of Duke University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Elizabeth Duncan Koontz was elected in July 1967 as the first president of the National Education Association. She was born and raised in Salisbury.

Helen Morris Lewis of Asheville was elected president of the North Carolina Equal Suffrage Association, the first organization to support the suffragist movement, in November 1894.

Elaine Marshall was the first woman elected to the North Carolina Council of State, in the position of secretary of state in 1996.

Mary Ann Mason was the first native Tar Heel to write a book for children, "*A Wreath From the Woods of Carolina*", 1859.

Deborah Crouch McKeithan founded Handicapped Organized Women in 1975, the first support group for handicapped women.

Nancy Roberts, an author, made history by becoming the first woman in North Carolina to file as a candidate for governor.

Jeanne Swanner Robertson of Burlington was the first and only Miss North Carolina to be voted by peers as Miss Congeniality in the Miss America pageant.

Grace J. Rohrer of Boone was appointed secretary of the Department of Art, Culture and History in 1973. She was the first woman in an executive cabinet post in North Carolina.

Gloria Scott of Greensboro was the first African-American woman to serve as national president of the Girl Scouts of America. Presently, she is the president of Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C.

Susie Marshall Sharp was appointed and then elected justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina. She became the first woman to be elected chief justice of a state supreme court in 1974. She was also the first woman to be appointed judge of the Superior Court.

Myrtle Siler of Chatham County was the first woman sheriff, appointed in 1921.

Debra W. Stewart, who became the first female dean at North Carolina State University in 1988, announced plans to leave the University in June 2000 to become president of the Council of Graduate Schools, a 435-member organization based in Washington, D.C., that promotes standards for graduate education.

Sallie Walker Stockard became the first female graduate of UNC in 1898. She could not be part of the official class photograph or even participate in the commencement ceremony. She didn't have to be recognized at commencement. She just wanted to be recognized for her success.

Margaret Berry Street was the first woman graduate of UNC-CH Law School, and in 1935, she became the first woman to win a case before the state Supreme Court.

Dianne Suber, a vice president at Hampton University in Hampton Va., was chosen as the 10th president of St. Augustine's College, a historically black Raleigh college. In 1999 she became the first woman to lead St. Aug's.

Betty Lou Ward is the first Wake County commissioner to become president of the National Association of Counties.

Ellen Black Winston was appointed U.S. commissioner of public welfare in 1963 and served until 1967. She was the first female to hold such a post.

Compiled in part from *North Carolina Trivia* by Ernie and Jill Couch and *North Carolina Superlatives* by Faris Jane Corey.

Female Heads of Colleges and Universities

Smith College was the first college to be founded and endowed by a woman—Sophia Smith. Photo Used with Permission of the Smith College Archives.

Name	Year Founded	Chief Administrator, Title
Public Institutions		
General Administration of the University of North Carolina System		Molly Corbett Broad, President
North Carolina State University	1887	Marye Anne Fox, Chancellor
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	1891	Patricia A. Sullivan, Chancellor
Community Colleges		
Forsyth Technical Community College	1964	Desna L. Wallin, President
Gaston Community College	1963	Patricia A. Skinner, President
James Sprunt Community College	1964	Mary T. Wood, Interim President
Lenoir Community College	1958	Karin K. Petit, President
Martin Community College	1967	Ann R. Britt, President
Montgomery Community College	1967	Mary P. Kirk, President
Private Institutions		
Bennett College	1873	Gloria R. Scott, President
Duke University	1838	Nannerl O. Keohane, President
Johnson C. Smith University	1867	Dorothy Cowser Yancy, President
Meredith College	1891	Maureen A. Hartford, President
Peace College	1857	Laura Carpenter Bingham, President
St. Augustine's College	1867	Dianne Suber, President
Salem College	1772	Julianne Still Thrift, President
Junior College		
Cabarrus College of Health Sciences	1942	Anita A. Brown, Chancellor
Louisburg College	1787	Rosemary Gillett-Karam, President

Historical Highway Markers About Women

Several sites in North Carolina have been designated by markers commemorating important individuals, events, sites and institutions. The table that follows shows the location of N.C. Highway Historical Markers related to the history of women in North Carolina.

Individual	Marker Inscription	Location
Harriet M. Berry 1877-1940	*Champion of good roads. Her intensive lobbying led to 1921 law creating modern state highway system. Born 8 mi. N.*	NC 86 at I-40 north of Chapel Hill
Westray Battle Boyce Long	*Director of the Women's Army Corps, 1945-1947. First woman honored with Legion of Merit, 1944. Grave 175 yds. S.*	NC 97 (Raleigh Road) east of Rocky Mount
Sallie S. Cotten 1846-1929	*Writer and advocate of women's rights. Helped organize N.C. Federation of Women's Clubs, 1902. Lived one mile south.*	NC 43 and NC 121 Bruce
Olive Tilford Dargan 1869-1968	*Writer of fiction and poetry. "Fielding Burke," her pen name. Author of "Call Home the Heart" and "Highland Annals." Home, 1925-68, was 1/4 mile N.*	US 19/23 Business (Haywood Road) at Balsam Avenue in Asheville
Dr. Susan Dimock	*Native of Washington, Zurich graduate, head of a Boston hospital, 1st woman member N.C. Medical Society, 1872. Her girlhood home was here.*	East Main Street Washington
Ann Marwood Durant	*First woman known to have acted as attorney in an N.C. court, 1673. Appeared before Council in Perquimans Precinct.*	US 17 Bypass at SR 1300 (Griffin Road in Winfall)
Inglis Fletcher 1879-1969	*Novelist. Wrote "Raleigh's Eden" (1940), first of 12-volume "Carolina Series," based on early N.C. history. Her home, "Bandon," stood 1/2 mile northwest.*	SR 1222 (Rocky Hope Road) at Arrowhead Beach
Mary Baker Glover Eddy	*Founder of Christian Science Church. Spent part of 1844 at Hanover House, 2 blocks west.*	US 17 Business (Third Street) at Market Street in Wilmington
Frances Goodrich 1856-1944	*Missionary and teacher. Her Allanstand Cottage Industries promoted the revival of Appalachian handicrafts. Lived here.*	NC 208 at Allanstand
Rose Greenhow	*Confederate spy and Washington society woman. Drowned near Fort Fisher in 1864, while running Federal blockade. Grave 1 m. N.E.*	US 17 Business (Third Street) at Dock Street in Wilmington
Tabitha A. Holton	*First woman licensed to practice law in North Carolina, 1878. Lived thirty yards northwest.*	US 601 Business (Main Street) at Kapp Street in Dobson
Harriet Jacobs c.1813-1897	*Fugitive slave, writer, & abolitionist. "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" (1861) depicts her early life. Lived in Edenton.*	US 17 Business (Broad Street) in Edenton
Flora MacDonald	*Scottish heroine spent the winter of 1774-1775 at Mount Pleasant, the home of her half-sister, Annabella MacDonald, which stood 400 yds. S.W.*	NC 24 Southeast of Johnsonville

Individual	Marker Inscription	Location
Flora MacDonald	*Scottish heroine who lived in N.C., 1774-79. Loyalist in the Revolution. Her home stood on this creek a few miles north.*	NC 731 at Cheek Creek east of Pekin
Dolley Madison 1768-1849	*Hostess and social leader. Wife of President Madison. Birthplace stood 1 1/2 mi. Northeast.*	US 421 (West Mark Street) in Greensboro
Gertrude Dills McKee	*First woman elected to N.C. Senate, 1930. Civic leader and clubwoman. Home was 50 yds. west.*	US 23 Business (Main Street) in Sylva
Jane McKimmon 1867-1957	*Home economist, from 1911 to 1937 she organized and led N.C.s home demonstration program. Lived here.*	North Blount Street at Polk Street in Raleigh
Millie-Christine McKoy	*Black Siamese twins born near here, 1851. Exhibited in U.S. and Europe. Died in 1912. Grave is five miles N.*	US 74/76 Business SR 1700 (Red Hill Road) northeast of Whiteville
Emily Prudden 1832-1917	*Missionary. Founded 15 western N.C. schools including Pfeiffer College forerunner. Her Skyland Institute stood here.*	US 321 Bypass at Main Street in Blowing Rock
"Christian Reid"	*Mrs. Frances Fisher Tiernanm 1846-1920, author of "Land of the Sky" and other novels is buried 200 yards northwest.*	US 29/70 (Main Street) in Salisbury
Lillian Exum Clement Stafford	*First female legislator in the South. Elected to N.C. House, 1920. Her law office was 400 yds. west; home 1/2 mi. NE.*	Charlotte Street and College Street in Asheville
Bayard Wootten 1875-1959	*Pioneer photographer of N.C. and the South. An advocate of equal rights for women. Began career ca. 1904 in this house where she was born.*	East Front Street in New Bern
Mary L. Wyche 1858-1936	*A pioneer in field of organized nursing. In 1902 she founded the N.C. Nurses' Association. Home was 7/10 mile W.*	NC 39 at SR 1308 (Harris Road) south of Williamsboro

Event	Marker Inscription	Location
Edenton Tea Party	*Fifty-one women met at Mrs. Elizabeth King's home, which stood 1100 ft. S.E., and resolved, Oct. 25, 1774, to support the American cause.*	US 17 Business (West Queen Street) in Edenton

Site	Marker Inscription	Location
First English Colonies	*Explored in 1584. Site of first English settlements in new world, 1585-1587. Birthplace of Virginia Dare, first child born of English parents in America.*	US 64/264 rest area northwest of Manteo

Institution	Marker Inscription	Location
Ballardry	*English folklorist Cecil Sharp in 1916 collected ballads in the "Laurel Country." Jane Gentry, who supplied many of the songs, lived here.*	NC 209 (Lance Avenue) at Walnut Street in Hot Springs
Barker House	*Home of Thomas Barker, N.C. agent of England, and his wife Penelope, reputed leader of the Edenton "Tea Party," 1774. Stands 3 blocks south.*	US 17 Business (Broad Street) in Edenton
Bennett College	*Methodist. Begun 1874; reorganized as woman's college, 1926. Named for Lyman Bennett of Troy, N.Y. Campus 2 bl. S.*	US 421 (East Mark Street) at Dudley Street in Greensboro
John C. Campbell Folk School	*Est. in 1925 by Olive D. Campbell and Marguerite Butler, who adapted the Danish folk school model to study of the region.*	SR 1100 (Phillips Road) at Brasstown
Carolina Female College, 1850-67	*Established by local planters, later operated by Methodist Church. Building was 150 yds. W.*	US 52 (Main Street in Ansonville)
Chowan College	*Founded by the Chowan Baptist Association and opened in 1848 as the Chowan Baptist Female Institute. 2 blocks S.*	US 158/258 (Main Street) at College Street in Murfreesboro
Claremont College	*Founded in 1880 by the Evangelical & Reformed Church as a school for women. Closed in 1916. Stood 300 yards east.*	NC 127 (Second Street NE) in Hickory
Confederate Women's Home	*Built in 1915 for the widows and daughters of state's Confederate veterans. Closed, 1981. Cemetery 300 yds. W.*	Fort Bragg Road at Glenville Avenue Fayetteville
Crossnore School	*Founded by Mary Martin Sloop, physician, 1913, to serve region's youth. Weaving Room, est. 1920, boosted revival of handicrafts. Campus 1/2 mi. W.*	US 221 at Crossnore
Davenport College	*For women; chartered 1859 by Methodist Episcopal Church, South; merged with Greensboro College , 1933. Two bldgs. stand 100 ft. S.W.*	US 321A (South Main Street) at College Avenue in Lenoir
Dorothea Dix Hospital	*Authorized 1849, largely through work of Dorothea L. Dix, crusader for better care of the mentally ill. 500 yards southwest.*	South Boylan Avenue in Raleigh
Edgeworth Female Seminary	*Established by John M. Morehead, operated, 1840-1862, 1868-1871. Building, burned in 1872, stood at this site.*	US 421 (West Mark Street) at Edgeworth Street in Greensboro
Floral College	*One of earliest colleges for women in the South, 1841-78. Center Presbyterian Church, formerly the college chapel, is 150 yards north.*	NC 71 Northeast of Maxton
Judson College	*Baptist. Chartered in 1861 as Judson Female College; later coeducational. Operated 1882-1892 in building which stood three blocks S.W.*	US 64 (Sixth Avenue at Fleming Street) Hendersonville
Catherine Kennedy Home	*For the elderly. Grew from Ladies Benevolent Society, founded, 1845. First home, 1879, stood four blocks east.*	US 17 Business (Third Street) at Orange Street in Wilmington
Lees-McRae College	*Presbyterian. Founded in 1900 by Edgar Tufts. Named for teacher Elizabeth McRae & benefactor Mrs. S.P. Lees. Senior college since 1988.*	NC 184/194 in Banner Elk

Institution	Marker Inscription	Location
Lewis School	*A coeducational private school, conducted by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Henry Lewis, opened in 1877 and closed in 1902, was in this house.*	NC 11/55 (East King Street) in Kinston
Littleton College	*Chartered in 1883 as Central Institute and in 1887 as Littetlon Female College. Burned 1919. Was located here.*	US 158 in Littleton
Meredith College	*A Baptist college for women, chartered 1891, opened 1899, named for Thomas Meredith, the founder of the Biblical Recorder, 1835.*	Hillsborough Street in Raleigh
Mitchell College	*Founded 1856 as a college for women. Presbyterian until 1959. Granted state community college status in 1973 Is two blocks N.*	US 64/70 (West Front Street) at Mulbery Street in Statesville
Mont Amoena Seminary	*Lutheran school for girls, 1859-1927. The name is Latin for "Mt. Pleasant." Site is one block south.*	NC 73 (Franklin Street) at Main Street in Mount Pleasant
North Carolina Sorosis	*Oldest Federated Women's Club in state; chartered 1896; organized in house 6 1/2 miles southwest.*	US 74 at Cardinal Drive in Wilmington
Oxford Female College	*Opened 1851 by Baptists, operated by individuals after 1857, by Franklin P. Hobgood, president, 1880-1924. School closed 1925 Campus was 2 blocks S.*	US 158 (Williamsboro Street) at Lanier Street in Oxford
Palmer Memorial Institute	*Preparatory school for blacks founded 1902 by Charlotte Hawkins Brown. Named for Alice Freeman Palmer. Closed in 1971. Now state historic site.*	US 70 at Sedalia
Peace College	*Founded by Presbyterian elder William Peace 1857 as school for women; opened 1872. Main Building used as Confederate hospital later as a Freemen's Bureau.*	Peace Street in Raleigh
Queens College	*Presbyterian. Organized 1857 as Charlotte Female Institute. Moved to this site, 1914. Merged with Chicora College in 1930. Coeducational since 1987.*	Selwyn Avenue in Charlotte
Saint Mary's	*Episcopal school for girls, established 1842 by Rev. Aldert Smedes on site of an earlier Episcopal school for boys, which opened 1834.*	Hillsborough Street in Raleigh
Samarcand	*State home and industrial school for girls, opened 1918. Academic and vocational training. Is three miles south.*	NC 211 and SR 114 (Samarcand Road) in Samarcand
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	*First college chartered for women in N.C., 1838. Founded by Methodist Church. Coeducational since 1954.*	US 421 (West Mark Street) in Greensboro
Wesleyan Female College	*Founded with Methodist support in 1853. Burned, 1877. Rebuilt 1881 and burned again in 1893. Site was 1 block south.*	US 158/258 (Main Street) at Wynn Street in Murfreesboro

Source: State of North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

Information on Women's History

Photo courtesy of the North Carolina Archives. Photo editing courtesy of Donald Robinson.

National Resources for Women's History

Center for Research on Women
106 Central Street Wellesley College
Wellesley, MA 02181
(781) 283-2500
www.wellesley.edu/WCW/crwsub.html

Feminist Press
365 Fifth Avenue 5th Floor
New York, NY 10016
(212) 817-7915
www.feministpcs.org/

General Federation of Women's Clubs
1734 N. Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-2990
www.nurelm.com/gfwc/

International Women's Air and Space Museum
1501 N. Marginal Road
Cleveland, OH 44114
(216) 623-1111
www.iwasm.org/

Jewish Women's Archive
68 Harvard Street
Brookline, MA 02143
(617) 232-2258
www.JWA.org/main.htm

National Black Herstory Task Force Inc.
P.O. Box 55021
Atlanta, GA 30322
(404) 508-8040
www.blackherstory.com/

National Women's Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 335
Seneca Falls, NY 13148-0335
(315) 568-2936
www.greatwomen.org

National Women's History Project
7738 Bell Road
Windsor, CA 95492-8518
www.nwhp.org

Schlessinger Library
3 James Street Radcliffe College
Cambridge, MA 02138
(707) 838-6000
www.radcliffe.edu/schles/

Women's Bureau
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Room S-3002
Washington, DC 20210
(800) 827-5335
www.dol.gov./dol/wb/

Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA)
55 Chapel Street
Newton, MA 02160
(800) 225-3088
www.edc.org/womensEquity/index.html

Women in Military Service for America
5510 Columbia Pike Suite 302
Arlington, VA 22204
(703) 533-1555
www.womesmemoral.org

State Resources for Women's History

Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial State Historic Site
P.O. Box 13
Sedalia, NC 27342
(336) 449-4846
www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/chb/chb.htm.

Department of Women's Studies
P.O. Box 7365
Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, NC 27109
(910) 761-5938
www.wfu.edu/Academic-departments/Womens-Studies/

Guide to Women's Records
N.C. State Archives
Department of Archives and History
109 E. Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 733-3952
www.DukeUniversityNational

League of Women Voters
3801 Barrett Drive, Suite 204
Raleigh, NC 27609
(919) 783-5995
www.rtpnet.org/~lwvnc/

Women's and Gender Studies
North Carolina State University
2806 Hillsborough Street, #10
Raleigh, NC 27695-8105
(919) 515-4165
www.dpi.state.nc.us

Women's Studies
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 328-6681
www.ecu.edu/wost/

Women's Studies Program
UNC-Charlotte
301 Kennedy Street
Charlotte, NC 28223
(704) 547-4312
www.uncc.edu.womens_studies/

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, 2000
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

Last spring, three women astronauts paused during a shuttle mission to pay homage to the past. Thousands of miles into space, floating above the floor of the shuttle, they raised a women's suffrage banner and posed for a picture. Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, a participant in this special tribute and a member of the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History, said, "We wanted to show how far women have come in this century and to honor the people who fought for our rights." Each year during the month of March, citizens across our country pause to honor the many heroes whose diligence and determination have helped to forge our Nation and enable people like Ellen Ochoa and her colleagues to soar so high.

Women's History Month is about highlighting the extraordinary achievements of women throughout our history, while recognizing the equally significant obstacles they had to overcome along the road to success. It is about the women who bravely donned uniforms and fought for our country. It is about the passion and vision of women educators like Mary McLeod Bethune, who, with only $1.50 in her pocket, founded a school for young black women. It is about the perseverance and pion-eering spirit of women like Margaret Chung, the first Chinese American woman physician, who supported herself through medical school by washing dishes and lecturing on China. It is about Alice Paul's fight for the vote and Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich's campaign to end discrimination against Alaska Natives. It is about the writings of Zora Neale Hurston, the paintings of Georgia O'Keeffe, the leadership of labor organizer Dolores Huerta, and the trailblazing artistry of photographer Margaret Bourke-White. It is also about the millions of unsung women whose contributions have made life better for their families and their communities.

Inspired by the courageous pioneers who came before them, women today continue to shape our Nation's destiny. Last year, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins became the first woman commander of a space shuttle mission. American violinists Sarah Chang, Pamela Frank, and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg were the first women to take home the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize in its 25-year history. And, in a game attended by the largest crowd of all time for a women's sporting event, the U.S. women's soccer team captured the World Cup. Today, 58 women hold seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and 9 women are United States Senators. More women hold high-level positions in my Administration than in any other in history. And in the private sector, women own nearly 9 million small businesses, employing millions of Americans and contributing significantly to the strength of our economy.

As we honor the past and celebrate the present, we must also focus on the future. Our choices today will have an enormous impact on the destiny of our daughters and grand-daughters, our sons and grandsons. We must rededicate ourselves to forging a society in which gender no longer predetermines a person's opportunities or station in life. We must shatter the glass ceiling; eradicate wage discrimination; and ensure that every American has the tools to meet both family and work responsibilities and to retire in security. By breaking down the remaining barriers and opening wide the doors of opportunity, we can make the future brighter for women and for all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2000 as Women's History Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, and to remember throughout the year the many contributions of courageous women who have made our Nation strong.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

State of North Carolina

JAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNOR

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

2000

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1980, President Carter proclaimed the first National Women's History Week which in 1987 became National Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, the theme for National Women's History Month 2000 is "An Extraordinary Century for Women -- Now, Imagine the Future!"; and

WHEREAS, in the past century and a half, the status of women changed dramatically due to the efforts of women such as Elizabeth Blackwell, who is credited as the first woman in the United States to earn a "regular" medical degree; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was the first woman to testify before Congress; Jeannette Rankin, who was the first woman elected to Congress; and Pearl Buck, who was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature; and

WHEREAS, during the latter half of the 20th century, women of all races and religions became leaders, such as Antonia Novello, who was the first woman to be U.S. surgeon general; Anita Hill, whose congressional testimony during the confirmation hearings for a Supreme Court justice brought the issue of sexual harassment to widespread public attention; Wilma Mankiller, who was voted the first woman to lead a Nation of people; and best-selling author Amy Tan, whose book, The Joy Luck Club, brought the Chinese immigrant experience to the attention of the mass media; and

WHEREAS, the future is now, as women continue to defy old rules and break through the glass ceiling, such as Carleton Fiorina, who is the chief executive of the 13th ranked Fortune 500 company, Hewlett-Packard; Marion Jones, who hopes to be named the fastest woman on earth at the 2000 Summer Olympics; and Elizabeth Dole, who ran the first viable campaign for the U.S. presidency until fund-raising concerns forced her withdrawal;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES B. HUNT JR., Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2000, as "WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH" in North Carolina. I encourage all the citizens of our State to recognize that history is not complete without "herstory" and to participate in events and programs throughout our State and Nation celebrating the historical accomplishments women have made and continue to make to our Nation.

JAMES B. HUNT JR.

IN W , I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the his ninth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

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